

# **Board Packet September 15, 2003**

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The public meeting of the  
San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
"Rivers and Mountains Conservancy" (RMC)  
will be held on  
**Monday, September 15, 2003 1:00 p.m.**  
at the following location:

Progress Park Plaza Auditorium  
15500 Downey Avenue  
Paramount, CA 90723

## AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Public Comment  
*Individuals wishing to comment must fill out a comment card at the meeting for the official record and will be allowed two minutes to speak, and representatives of organizations/agencies will be allowed three minutes to speak. Speaker time may be reduced depending on the number of speakers.*
3. Approval of July 24, 2003 Minutes
4. Chair's Report
5. Deputy Attorney General's Report
6. Executive Officer's Reports
  - a. Legislation and Initiatives
  - b. Budget Expenditure
  - c. Subsequent Plans
  - d. FY 02/03 Proposition 40 Implementation
7. Consent Calendar
  - a. Consideration of resolution approving Watershed Conservation Authority FY 2003/2004 annual budget
  - b. Consideration of resolution supporting AB 1548 (Pavely Bill)
  - c. Consideration of resolution authorizing FY 02/03 Proposition 40 Competitive Program grants to the following entities:
    1. City of Diamond Bar for the Sycamore Park Trail Development Project
    2. City of El Monte for the Rio Vista Park Restoration and Conservation Project
    3. City of Fullerton for Laguna Lake Park
    4. City of Glendora for Gordon-Mull Acquisition
    5. City of La Puente for Puente Creek Nature Education Center
    6. City of La Mirada for Creek Park
    7. City of Lynwood for Lynwood Meadows
    8. City of Palmdale for Tejon Park Expansion and Una Lake
    9. City of Pico Rivera for Improvements to the San Gabriel River and/or Rio Hondo Spreading Basins, and eliminate the Mines Avenue Bike Lane project from funding considerations from this cycle
    10. City of West Covina for Galster Park Project
    11. County of Los Angeles for San Jose Creek and San Gabriel River Bike Trail
    12. County of Los Angeles for Zone 1 Ditch Channel Enhancement Project
    13. County of Los Angeles for Dominguez Gap Wetlands Multiuse Project
    14. California Native Habitat Endowment Fund for Habitat Authority Community Outreach and Education Programs

15. Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation for Rancho Los Alamitos Native Garden Restoration Project at Historic Ranch and Gardens
- d. Consideration of resolutions: 1) recommending that the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority authorize a grant to the City of Paramount for the Ralph C. Dills Riverfront Park project from Los Angeles County Open Space District Prop A excess funds and 2) recommending an amendment to the Proposition 13 supplemental grant agreement between the RMC and the City of Paramount and recommending a request to amend the Proposition 13 grant agreement between the RMC and the Resources Agency
- e. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Friends of Pio Pico for improvements to Pio Pico State Historic Park.
- f. Consideration of resolution recommending that the Watershed Conservation Authority adopt a drug-free awareness program for the workplace in compliance with state contracting requirements
- g. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District for the San Gabriel River environmental graphic design service program
- h. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant amendment to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for services related to Proposition 40 and 50 project implementation
- i. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to North East Trees for the South Gate Riparian Habitat Restoration project
8. Consideration of resolution adopting the 2003-2004 RMC Workprogram and discussion of related fiscal planning.
9. Consideration of resolutions authorizing Proposition 40 planning grants to:
  - a. City of Bellflower for the Bellflower Riverfront Park Project
  - b. City of Seal Beach for the San Gabriel River Bikeway and Staging Area Improvement Project
  - c. Watershed Conservation Authority for development of RMC's Trail and Recreational Opportunities Plan
  - d. City of Paramount for the Dills Park Riverfront Park Project
  - e. City of Baldwin Park for the Park Master Plan project
  - f. Watershed Conservation Authority for the Woodland Duck Farm
  - g. City of Seal Beach for Open Space Opportunities
  - h. City of Whittier for extension of the Whittier Greenway Trail to the San Gabriel River Bike Trail and Pio Pico State Historic Park
  - i. City of Compton for the Compton Creek project
  - j. San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy for the Habitat Restoration Assessment project
10. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority for trail, bike path, access, signage and low impact recreational access improvement projects
11. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Media and Policy Center Foundation of California for development and production of an educational program on Urban Forestry and the Creation of Sustainable Ecosystems
12. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for San Gabriel River Watershed improvement projects
13. Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 40 and/or 50 grant to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments for implementation of a Brownfields study

14. Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 40 and/or 50 grant to the Gateway Cities Council of Governments for expansion of a bike trail along the Santa Ana branch of the abandoned PE right-of-way.
15. Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 40 and/or 50 grant to the Orange County Division of League of California Cities for identification of high priority regional open space and recreational opportunities.
16. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority from Proposition 40 and 50 for implementation of the RMC Workprogram including procedures for disbursement of grant funds.
17. Discussion and possible action concerning negotiations with the City of Industry related to the Woodland Duck Farm property, Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 8115-001-001, -002; 8115-002-001, -002, -003, -004, -005, -007 (This item may be heard in closed session pursuant to Section 11126 (c) (7) (A) and 11126 (e) (1) of the Government Code)
18. Consideration of litigation: City of Industry, a municipal corporation vs. Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. (This item may be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9)
19. Board Member Comments
20. Discussion of future agenda items
21. Announcement of next meeting date
22. Closed Session: Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11126 (a) (1), 11126 (c) (7) (A), 11126 (e) (1) and 11126.3 (a) the Board may hold a closed session at any time during the meeting to discuss and take possible action on personnel matters, receive advice of counsel on pending or potential litigation, and/or give instructions to negotiators regarding Items 17 and 18. Memoranda related to these issues may be considered during such closed session discussions.
23. Adjournment at 3:30 p.m. or upon completion of business, whichever is sooner.

For additional information concerning the meeting, please contact Belinda Faustinos at (626) 458-4315 or visit the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy web page at [www.rmc.ca.gov](http://www.rmc.ca.gov)

Note: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability-related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Board Secretary at (626) 458-4315 at least 3 days prior to the meeting.

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
"RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY" (RMC)  
July 24, 2003  
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**Call to Order:** 1:20 p.m. - Garvey Center, 9108 Garvey Avenue, Rosemead, CA

**1. OATH OF OFFICE**

Deputy Attorney General Fujimoto administered the Oath of Office to Supervisor Gloria Molina, and Ms. Marilyn Cundiff.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Ms. Heather Barnett (for Secretary Nichols); Mr. Stan Chen (for Mr. Stetson); Ms. Margaret Clark; Chair Frank Colonna; Ms. Marilyn Cundiff (for Mr. Wright); Ms. Cristina Madrid; Ms. Kathie Matsuyama (for Ms. Wilson); Supervisor Gloria Molina; Vice Chair Bev Perry; Mr. Rick Ruiz; Ms. Debbie Smith (for Mr. Hickox); Mr. Don Wolfe (for Mr. Noyes); Dr. Paul Yost

**Members Absent:** Mr. Dan Arrighi; Ms. Jody Cook (for Mr. Blackwell); Mr. David De Jesus; Mr. Fred Klass (for Mr. Peace); Mr. Ron Schaffer (for Ms. Coleman); Mr. Edward Wilson; Mr. Dan Young (for Colonel Thompson)

**Staff Present:** Belinda Faustinos, Executive Officer  
Enrique Arroyo, Deputy Executive Officer  
Terry Fujimoto, Deputy Attorney General  
Diane Maikui, Executive Secretary

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilman Bob Huff, City of Diamond Bar, referred to the City's Prop 40 Sycamore Canyon application, which he stated scored very high. He further stated that staff was directed by the RMC Board to enter into discussions regarding to the City of Diamond Bar adopting the RMC Open Space Plan, which they had opposed. He indicated that the RMC's Open Space Plan conflicted with the City of Diamond Bar's voter adopted General Plan, the Housing Element, the Circulation Element, and the Land Use Element. He encouraged the RMC to, rather than focus on the parts where the City's various plans and the RMC Common Ground did not agree, look at the common ground in the middle, which was the common ground.

Chair Colonna asked if there were other members of the public that wished to speak during public comments.

The other public speakers indicated their wish to speak during specific agenda items.

**4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 19, 2003 MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Clark referred to page 7 of the minutes and stated that she had specifically asked Chair Colonna if the quorum would be lost if she left the meeting at 1:00 p.m. for a previously scheduled meeting, and the reply was that the quorum would not be lost. She asked that the minutes reflect her question and the subsequent answer since the minutes indicated that “Ms. Clark left the meeting, and the quorum was lost, Mr. Ruiz’s motion failed for lack of a quorum.”

Ms. Faustinos referred to page 3 of the minutes, under section for members absent, and stated that Ms. Georgia Lipphardt (for Mr. Wright) would be added.

Chair Colonna asked that the typographical errors also be corrected.

**Ms. Madrid moved to approve the Minutes as amended; Mr. Ruiz seconded the motion; unanimously passed.**

**Mr. Edward Wilson arrived at the meeting, at which time, Deputy Attorney General Fujimoto administered the Oath of Office.**

**5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF MEMBER, KELLY SCHMOKER**

Ms. Faustinos introduced new RMC staff member Kelly Schmoker, the Staff Environmental Scientist.

**6. CHAIR’S REPORT**

No report was forthcoming.

**7. DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL’S REPORT**

**a. Discussion regarding Conflict of Interest**

Deputy Attorney General Fujimoto stated that at the meeting of June 19, 2003, the Board requested information on conflict of interest issues, and a memorandum was later distributed to the Board, which explained various forms of conflict of interests that may arise in the context with the RMC, and set forth standards relating to those interests.

**Chair Colonna made an announcement that item 13 of the agenda had been withdrawn.**

**8. LEGISLATION AND INITIATIVES REPORT**

Ms. Faustinos stated that there was nothing specific to report, but would answer any questions the Board may have regarding the legislation report.

**9. BUDGET EXPENDITURE REPORT**

Ms. Faustinos stated that a budget expenditure report was not included in the Board packet.

**10. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROPOSITION 40 GRANT TO THE CITY OF BREA FOR TONNER CANYON**

Ms. Faustinos summarized the staff report and the recommendation which was to authorize a Prop 40 grant to the City of Brea for the acquisition of Tonner Canyon. Staff also showed a



power point presentation. She noted that staff felt comfortable making the recommendation to the Board and felt the project was appropriate for Prop 40 funding.

Vice-Chair Perry stated that at the last meeting, she asked for an opinion from the Attorney General on whether she could vote on the issue, to which she was informed that she could vote on the Prop 40 grant application for Tonner Canyon. She stated that under Government Code Section 1091.5 (a) (9) she was to disclose her interests to the Board, which was that she was the Mayor of the City of Brea.

Ms. Madrid asked if the grant funds would purchase the entire site, or would other funds be forthcoming from other resources.

Ms. Faustinos stated that the City of Brea had submitted other applications for additional funding from other agencies.

Ms. Madrid asked if there was a willing seller for the subject property and the sales price resolved.

Ms. Faustinos stated that she believed the City was not at that stage as of yet but were in discussions with the seller of the property.

Ms. Madrid stated that the City of Industry indicated that they owned the Boy Scout camp located in the Tonner Canyon area and asked where the camp was located in conjunction with the subject project.

Ms. Faustinos referred to the site map and indicated the location of the Boy Scout camp.

Chairman Colonna asked if there were any public comments for the item.

Claire Schlotterbeck, President of Hills for Everyone, supported the Prop 40 funding for the acquisition of Tonner Canyon.

Michele Vadon, attorney for the City of Industry submitted an email document to the Board between Enrique Arroyo and City of Brea Engineer Dave Crabtree. She stated that felt the email indicated that the RMC did not look closely at the application and that Enrique assisted the City of Brea with their application, but did not offer the same assistance to the City of Industry who also had submitted a Prop 40 application. She added that Prop 40 funds were regulated by Public Resources Code 5096.600 et. sec. She noted that Public Resources Code Section 5096.603 stated that lands or interest in lands, acquired with funds out of the interest pursuant to the chapter shall be acquired from a willing seller. She further stated that through the request for public documents from the City of Brea there was no paperwork with regards to any negotiations with the owners of the property. She suggested the RMC asked for the paperwork on the sale of the property upfront prior to any funds being distributed for the grant, rather than giving away funding for a property that did not have a willing seller. She stated that Public Resources Code Section 5096.251 required that in making of a grant, priority should be given to projects that included a commitment for a matching contribution, which the City of Brea did not have. She expressed concern that if the acquisition went through, the access was going to be closed from the 57 freeway to the City of Industry's property, which would impact the 30,000 children per year that used the property. She indicated that the road needed to be there for fire safety purposes and the City would not have a public road on the site. She stated that the proposal violated the Orange County Master Plan Arterial Highway, which meant it was in

violation of the Orange County General Plan. She felt that it would not be appropriate for the Board to offer funds for the acquisition since there was no imminent sale, and that the Board withhold the funds until the City of Brea made a proper application.

Glen Parker, Chairman of the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority, supported the Prop 40 funding for the Tonner Canyon acquisition. He noted that the City of Brea had demonstrated a consistent track record commitment to park and open space. He also noted the history of efforts the City of Brea had with the Boy Scouts. He stated that the City of Brea had no intention of denying access to the canyon, and stated that the intent was to create an open space network corridor access to the other property for the purposes of what it had been used for in the past, i.e., scouting and fire safety. He noted that the subject property was located in the City of Brea's sphere of influence, and that no portion was located in L.A. County where the City of Industry was located. He stated that although the price and sale had not been negotiated, there was interest on behalf of the owner of the property to sell.

Charles View, City of Brea, thanked the Board on behalf of the City for considering the application. He noted that the subject site was located in the City of Brea's sphere of influence and the City was the logical choice to acquire the property. He noted that the site was very accessible to both L.A. and Orange County residents for their use and enjoyment of the trails. He also noted that Brea was very active in encouraging the use and preservation of open space. He stated that there was no intention to close the access to the other areas. He also stated that he has been in contact with Orange County staff regarding their General Plan in relation to Carbon Canyon Road, and their staff was working with Brea on the General Plan issue.

Council Member Bob Huff, City of Diamond Bar, stated that a recent survey done in the area determined that there was too much traffic in the area. He stated he did not support the acquisition due to the traffic circulation, which he felt would be impacted.

Ms. Faustinos stated that the RMC would not be disbursing funds unless there was a willing seller and the subject property was imminent to close escrow. She noted that all of the grants were reimbursable. She referred to the communications with the applicants regarding the projects, and stated RMC staff contacted the applicants after they had been identified as a potential grantee to setup site visits for those projects. She noted that staff had no contact with the project applicant's until after the projects had been ranked, and the communication with the City of Brea was subsequent to the site visit.

Chairman Colonna stated that the Board had always instructed staff to interact with applicants or any member of the public at any time.

Ms. Clark stated when she reviewed the ranking and compared the City of Brea and the City of Industry she was disturbed that Brea was given points for "funding has been specifically allocated by a government and/or non-government entity", although there was no pending funding. She further stated that Brea received points for "development threat of the project is imminent that would preclude future park use and the project is available for sale", which was not the case.

**Ms. Clark motioned to table the matter to a later date when the issues addressed.**

**Motion failed for lack of second.**

Dr. Yost stated that the property acquisition was the type of project the conservancy was designed for, and he felt it was a great project for the Wildlife Corridor and a worthy open space project. He asked if there was a time limit for which the funds were allocated, at which point Brea would have to have a willing seller and/or other funds for the acquisition.

Ms. Faustinos stated that staff's recommendation for all Prop 40 or Prop 50 acquisition grants would be that in the general grant provisions there would be a clause that the grant term is only for 12 months, and if the funds were not expended within that time, there is a provision that the Board will decide whether to extend the contract. She further stated that the contract would return to the Board with a recommendation for either resending the grant or extending the period of time for the grant. She stated that if an acquisition was not finalized with a willing seller within the 12 months time frame, it would call into question whether or not the project was viable, and staff would make a recommendation whether the funds should be applied to another project.

**Dr. Yost motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2003-62 and approved the Prop 40 grant for the City of Brea; Vice-Chair Perry seconded the motion.**

Ms. Madrid stated that when she looked at a project for funding she took into consideration the organizations past projects, and she believed the City of Brea had a commitment to open space. She also appreciated that the City of Industry kept the Boy Scout camp in the area open space.

Ms. Clark objected to the motion and stated her issues with the rating process and the items she felt were not fulfilled.

Ms. Barnett stated that even if the points in the rating process were adjusted, Brea's application would still have a greater number of points. She also noted that the Board did not base its decision solely on the number of points a project received, but also considered other aspects of the project's application.

Ms. Clark felt that the government code sections should be adhered to when distributing government funds.

Ms. Faustinos reiterated her statement that no funds would be allocated until there is a willing seller situation.

Ms. Clark asked why the application was being discussed at the meeting.

Ms. Faustinos stated that the item on the agenda was authorizing the grant to the City of Brea, not the allocation of funds, as the grant would not be paid until such as time as there was a willing seller.

Chair Colonna concurred with Ms. Barnett, that the projects were based on more than just point totals. He stated that the Tonner Canyon was a good project since it was public land and would be used for public use.

**The motioned passed with one objection from Ms. Clark.**

# **11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PROPOSITION 40 GRANT APPLICATIONS, PROJECT EVALUATION PROCESS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF WORK-PROGRAM**

Ms. Faustinos suggested that item #11 be tabled to the next meeting in the interest of time.

Chair Colonna tabled item #11 to the next meeting.

**Ms. Perry excused herself from the meeting due to a prior commitment.**

**Items #12 and 14 were heard concurrently; item #13 had been withdrawn.**

12. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACQUIRE THE WOODLAND DUCK FARM PROPERTY, ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBERS: 8110-029-003, -004, -005, -006, -007, -008; 8115-001-001, -002; 8115-002-001, -002, -003, -004, -005, -007; 8564-012-001; 8110-001-023, -024, -026; 8110-021-030, -031, -032, -033; 8110-017-001. (THIS ITEM MAY BE HEARD IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 11126 (C) (7) (A) AND 11126 (E) (1) OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE)**
14. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND OR WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY SELL THE WOODLAND DUCK FARM PROPERTY, ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBERS: 8115-001-001, -002; 8115-002-001, -002, -003, -004, -005, -007 TO THE CITY OF INDUSTRY WITH PROVISIONS FOR A CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND OTHER CONDITIONS AND COVENANTS. (THIS ITEM MAY BE HEARD IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 11126 (C) (7) (A) AND 11126 (E) (1) OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE)**

Ms. Faustinos summarized the staff reports referring to the information contained therein. She gave an overview and background information for the Duck Farm project, which included a power point presentation.

Ms. Clark questioned whether fire trucks could go through the tunnel referring to a slide in the Power Point presentation showing an underpass similar to the Duck Farm location which provides access to the Dominguez Gap Western Spreading Basin.

Ms. Faustinos stated that she assumed fire trucks could go through the Dominguez Gap tunnel since there was a public storage facility on site.

Chair Colonna asked for comments from the members of the public.

Don Rogers, Pasadena Audubon Society, asked that the RMC in their recommendation to the WCA, attempt to preserve the natural space of Woodland Farms, and that if the WCA had to make a deal with another municipality that every assurance should be given to preserve the area. He felt that the water and nature needed to be kept close to home and noted that the area was a viable bird area. He asked that the RMC not allow any type of industrial development on the site, but to create some wetlands and some fun space for people to enjoy.

Jeff Yann, representing the Sierra Club, commended the Trust for Public Land for making the opportunity possible for the RMC, and commended the RMC staff for the work they had done with the purchase. He stated that the Sierra Club was disappointed that the RMC was considering selling a part of the site to the City of Industry. He stated that it was unfortunate the City of Industry was threatening the RMC with law suits. He stated that it did not make sense to

him why the City of Industry sent their lawyers to do business, and not a City official. He stated that the public had a right to know what the City of Industry planned to do on the parcels they wanted to purchase, and how the RMC would be able to protect the land and turn it into park land, which would be the best use of the site.

Joann Surackman, Whittier Narrows Nature Center, stated she was excited with the progress of the San Gabriel River as she felt it was important for the education of children and other visitors about the natural history of the area and water conservation. She supported the linkage between the Whittier Narrows Nature Center and the Duck Farm property, especially at the confluence of the River and the San Gabriel Creek.

Joan Holtz, member of the Sierra Club, urged the RMC to purchase the entire site and keep the City of Industry from purchasing any part of the site.

Don May, California Earth Corps, supported the WCA acquiring all of the Duck Farm site and opposed the sale of any part of the site to the City of Industry. He added that the Duck Farm site was being looked at as a poster child for restoration for the San Gabriel River.

Jennifer Hranilovich, Project Manager the Trust for Public Land (TPL), gave a brief overview of TPL's mission. She stated that TPL was prepared to sell the entire site to the WCA.

Joan Licari, resident of Hacienda Heights, urged the RMC/WCA to purchase the entire Duck Farm site. She stated that the people who resided in the area were in great need of open space for recreation, and land that was adjacent to a river was particularly important to habitat and wildlife, as there was little habitat left and the area could not afford to lose more. She further stated that the Duck Farm could be developed as a local park and become a part of an 8 mile long park corridor, connecting with San Jose Creek, Whittier Narrows, and the Rio Hondo corridor.

Johanna Zetterberg, Conservation Program Coordinator for the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, urged the RMC not to sell any portion of the Duck Farm site to the City of Industry. She stated that the RMC/WCA was directed to preserve urban open space and that may not be achieved if the City of Industry was a part of the sale.

David Czamanske, Pasadena Group of the Sierra Club felt that the City of Industry had another agenda and urged the RMC/WCA to purchase the entire Duck Farm site. He stated that people are starving for open space, especially near water. He urged the RMC to recognize the interests of the people of the valley when considering the issue. He submitted a copy of the *San Gabriel Valley Tribune*, regarding an story on oil pumps on the Whittier Narrows property.

Chi Mui, representing the Chinese Benevolent Association and City Councilman from San Gabriel stated that there was a shortage of open space in the San Gabriel Valley and an increase in people. He encouraged the RMC/WCA to preserve the open space of the Duck Farm and increase the trails in the area for recreational use.

Scott Wilson, President of North East Trees, supported the acquisition, and encouraged the RMC not to sell to the City of Industry.

Michele Vadon, City Attorney for City of Industry, stated that the City of Industry has offered to become a partner in the Duck Farm project by purchasing the parcels that were located in the City of Industry. She further stated that the City had offered conservation and open space

easements. She stated that there was no industrial project contemplated on the property. She hoped that the RMC/WCA staff would manage the areas upon which the easements would be located, and that there would be no interruption of the use of the property. She added that the City of Industry would be buying the property and turning it over to the RMC, while becoming a stakeholder in the process. She stated that the RMC was supposed to be working with cities, and the obligation did not disappear when it became a part of a JPA. She stated that the concept of the City of Industry putting an industrial use on the property was absurd. She asked that the RMC recommend to the WCA that they enter in negotiations with the City of Industry to purchase 21 acres within the City's jurisdiction.

Ms. Madrid asked if the entire 21 acres would have conservation easements.

Ms. Vadon replied in the negative and stated that there would be open space easements and conservation easements. She added that the conservation easements would run all along the river front.

Ms. Madrid asked what portion of the 21 acres would have the easements.

Ms. Vadon stated she was not certain of the area, but it would be the vast majority. She stated that all the City of Industry wanted was to pursue the possibility that some day they could have a water quality project on the property where it was adjacent to San Jose Creek. She stated that the project was a non-invasive use.

Ms. Madrid asked if there would be any commercial facility on the property.

Ms. Vadon stated that there would no facility at all on the property. She stated that the water quality project was to comply with state and federal requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Ms. Madrid asked if the City of Industry would change the zoning from commercial to a watershed zone.

Ms. Vadon answered affirmatively.

Ms. Madrid asked if the zoning had been changed yet.

Ms. Vadon stated that they would not change the zoning until they knew if the project was viable.

Ms. Clark asked where the open space easement would be.

Ms. Vadon stated that they were considering parcel 9.

Ms. Faustinos referred to the map and indicated the 9 acres subject to the open space easement.

Ms. Madrid asked what would happen to the other acres.

Ms. Faustinos stated that the City had offered the RMC conservation easements along the river front, which would give the WCA site control of development of a river front park. She noted that there would also be a trail easement through parcel 9 to allow connectivity from San Jose Creek to the river front parcels.

Dr. Yost asked if the trail would also connect Rio Hondo and Whittier Narrows.

Ms. Faustinos answered affirmatively. She stated that there was a proposed San Gabriel River bridge to connect over to Whittier Narrows.

Mr. Wilson asked why the City of Industry had to be involved in the sale of the property if their plans were not fully developed for the site.

Ms. Faustinos stated that the City of Industry had indicated that they wanted to be a part of the transaction from the beginning and wanted the WCA to enter into a binding sale agreement in order to ensure that the WCA would be a cooperative partner. She stated that based on the discussions between RMC staff and the City regarding the language that would be associated with the conservation and trail easements, the RMC/WCA interests would be protected. She noted that she felt the proposed water quality project was an important issue to address; however, there were still negotiations to be worked out. She further stated that she felt it was imperative to approach the project from a partnership perspective, in order to get the land use consideration within the City of Industry's jurisdiction.

Gary Neely, state taxpayer, opposed the purchase, stating that he objected to spending more than the appraisal value of 1 million.

Ms. Clark asked what options were if the Board decided on a recommendation in closed session that WCA did not agree with.

Deputy Attorney General Fujimoto stated that the WCA was not legally bound by the recommendations of the RMC. However, it was the policy of the WCA that it takes and accepts policy recommendations from the RMC.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

- 20. Closed Session: Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11126 (a) (1), 11126 (c) (7) (A), 11126 (e) (1) and 11126.3 (a) the Board may hold a closed session at any time during the meeting to discuss and take possible action on personnel matters, receive advice of counsel on pending or potential litigation, and/or give instructions to negotiators regarding Items 12, and/or 13 and 14. Memoranda related to these issues may be considered during such closed session discussions.**

**ADJOURNED PUBLIC SESSION OF THE RMC BOARD MEETING TO HOLD CLOSED SESSION AT 2:56 P.M.**

**RECONVENED PUBLIC SESSION OF THE RMC BOARD MEETING AT 3:54 P.M.**

**Ms. Clark motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2003-65; Mr. Wilson seconded the motion; carried unanimously.**

**Ms. Clark motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2003-67; Mr. Wilson seconded the motion; carried unanimously.**

**REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION:** The Board recommended that the WCA enter into negotiations to sell the Woodland Duck Farm property, assessor's parcel numbers: 8115-001-

001, -002; 8115-002-001, -002, -003, -004, -005, -007 to the City of Industry regarding with the provisions for conservation easements and other conditions and covenants.

**15. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSITION 40 GRANT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR ACQUISITION OF THE WOODLAND DUCK FARM PROPERTY TO PROVIDE FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CONCLUDE THE PROJECT.**

Ms. Faustinos summarized the staff report and made herself available for questions from the Board.

**Ms. Barnett motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2003-63; Dr. Yost seconded the motion; carried unanimously.**

Chair Colonna asked if any members of the public wished to speak on the matter.

No public was forthcoming.

**16. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AMEND THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR PROPOSITION 13 FUNDS FOR THE WOODLAND DUCK FARM TO INCLUDE A FUTURE PLANNING PHASE FOR THE SITE.**

Ms. Faustinos summarized the staff report and stated that the application had yet to be submitted, and would like to include in the application the acquisition, planning and development as potential uses of the revenues.

**Dr. Yost motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2003-64; Ms. Smith seconded the motion; carried unanimously.**

Ms. Clark stated that she had attended a River Masterplan meeting on July 21, 2003 and the Duck Farm was discussed. She stated she would like the RMC headquarters to use the mansion on the site as a temporary home only, and not permanent. She expressed concern with access to the site. She also stated that the site would not provide a place for the Board to meet, and it would be best to have regular meetings at the RMC headquarters. Therefore, she wanted to look at what improvements would take place before any funds were approved.

Ms. Faustinos stated that the Board, at their meeting of April 17, 2003, adopted Resolution No. 2003-24, which approved the office remodeling. She indicated that Resolution No. 2003-63 reaffirmed the allocation of those funds. She noted that there was an amount listed in the staff report for item 15 that addressed the improvements to the infrastructure of the site. She indicated that if the Board had concerns regarding the allocation of funds, they would need to resend their motion on item 15.

Ms. Clark questioned whether the other Board Members had actually looked at the site and really thought through exactly what should occur at the site.

**Ms. Clark motioned to reconsider item #15 of the agenda.**

**Ms. Clark's motion failed for lack of second.**



**17. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Ruiz gave a brief explanation of Resolution No. 2003-65 and Resolution No. 2003-67 for public benefit.

Ms. Madrid noted that she was traveling to Arizona to visit the Rio Salado in August.

Ms. Barnett referred to the Prop 40 application for the City of Diamond Bar and expressed her wishes that staff move forward with the negotiations.

**18. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Faustinos stated that Prop 40 grants under negotiations, including the City of Diamond Bar, would be considered at the next meeting.

**19. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

August 21, 2003 at 11:30 a.m. was announced for the next meeting date.

**21. Meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.**

**TO: RMC Governing Board**

**FROM: Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer**

**SUBJECT: Item 6(A): Review and discussion of legislation and initiatives report**

**STAFF DISCUSSION:**

New items and updates are shown in bold print. For full text and history of bills and initiatives, please visit these web sites:

Federal Bills	<a href="http://thomas.loc.gov">http://thomas.loc.gov</a>
State Bills	<a href="http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html">http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html</a>
Initiative Measures	<a href="http://www.caag.state.ca.us/initiatives/activeindex.htm">http://www.caag.state.ca.us/initiatives/activeindex.htm</a>

Current as of 9/09/03

1. Federal Legislation

- a. HR 239 – Miller, Gary – To facilitate the provision of assistance by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the cleanup and economic redevelopment of brownfields. Latest Major Action: 3/6/03 Reported by the Committee on Financial Services. House Report. [108-22](#). Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 15
- b. HR 306 – Miller, Gary – To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide procedures for claims relating to drinking water. Latest Major Action: 3/5/03 Referred to the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law.
- c. HR 519 – Solis – To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the San Gabriel River Watershed, and for other purposes. Latest Major Action: 6/16/03 Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent (consideration: CR S7934, S7938). 6/16/2003 Cleared for White House. 6/17/2003 Message on Senate action sent to the House. 6/20/2003 Presented to President. 7/1/2003 Signed by President. 7/1/2003 Became Public Law No: 108-42
- d. HR 697 – Millender-McDonald – A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate I-710 between the terminus at Long Beach to State Route 60 as a high priority corridor in California. Latest Major Action: 2/12/03 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.
- e. HR 749 – Udall – To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Cooperative Landscape Conservation Program ('Cooperative Landscape Conservation Act'). The purpose of this Act is to establish a program administered by the Secretary of the Interior to provide matching grants to certain eligible entities to facilitate the acquisition of permanent conservation easements on lands in order to conserve wildlife, fisheries, public recreation, open space, and other important conservation values where consistent with the continuation of traditional uses of those lands by private landowners. Latest Major Action: 2/19/2003 House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Executive Comment Requested from Interior.

- f. **HR 2989 – Istook – Making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes. Includes provisions that dismantle key transportation programs that allow local communities to provide the public with more transportation choices (i.e. trails, bikeways). Latest Major Action: 9/4/2003 House floor actions. Status: Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union rises leaving H.R. 2989 as unfinished business.**
  - g. **HR 2373 – Maloney – To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to nonprofit community organizations for the development of open space on municipally owned vacant lots in urban areas. Latest Major Action: 6/17/2003 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity.**
  - h. **S 347 – Feinstein – A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a joint special resources study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Rim of the Valley Corridor as a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and for other purposes. Latest Major Action: 4/10/03 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health.**
  - i. **S 630 – Boxer – To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the San Gabriel River Watershed, and for other purposes. Latest Major Action: 5/13/03 Senate committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. Hearings held.**
  - j. **S 1413 – Boxer – To authorize appropriations for conservation grants of the Environmental Protection Agency, to direct the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct expedited feasibility studies of certain water projects in the State of California, and for other purposes.. Latest Major Action: 7/15/03 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.**
2. State Legislation
- a. **AB 66 – Leslie – This bill declares legislative intent that: (1) California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) operate an Adopt Adopt-A-Riverway Program (Program) consistent with the existing integrated weed management plans for the control of noxious weeds; (2) that the program be funded by private contributions made to CDFA that can then be allocated as grants to participating non-profits; and (3) that courtesy signs be made available to recognize the donors and the groups who work to restore the state's riverways. The bill further declares that private gifts, donations, or bequests to the Adopt-A-Riverway Fund (Fund) should be construed as charitable contributions. Latest Major Action: 09/04/03 Read third time, passed, and to Assembly from Appropriations.**
  - b. **AB 90 – Wyland – This bill would authorize the Department of Water Resources to enter into an agreement to accept funds, materials, equipment, or services from any person, as defined, for maintenance or enhancement of a section of a state waterway, as defined, for purposes of establishing an Adopt-A-Waterway Program. Participation in the program would include management of noxious weeds, unless no**

noxious weeds are present, and may include liter removal, establishment of native seedling trees and shrubs, planting and establishing native grasses and wildflowers, and other activities that the department authorizes through regulations. Latest Major Action: 02/20/03 Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

- c. AB 93 – Canciamilla – An act to add Division 30 (commencing with Section 81000) to the Water Code, relating to financing a water quality, water security, and water supply infrastructure improvement program, by providing the funds necessary therefore through the issuance and sale of bonds of the State of California and by providing for the handling and disposition of those funds, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately. Latest Major Action: 5/22/03: Corrected. 5/13/03: Re-referred to Committee on Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials. 5/12/03: From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Committee on Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials. Read second time and amended.
- d. AB 148 – Dymally – Existing law, the Water Replenishment District Act, authorizes a water replenishment district to perform certain actions for the purposes of replenishing the groundwater supplies within the district, including building necessary works. This bill would, instead authorize a district to construct necessary works to achieve groundwater replenishment. Latest Major Action: 5/22/03: Corrected. 5/15/03 Re-referred to Committee on Rules. 5/14/03 From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Committee on Rules. Read second time and amended.
- e. AB 238 – Oropeza – Parks and resources. Under existing law, programs have been established for, among other things, the development and enhancement of state and local parks and recreational facilities. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to make reasonable and cost-effective investments in the state's parks and recreational and conservation areas. Latest Major Action: 01/31/03 From printer. May be heard in committee March 2.
- f. AB 396 – Harman – Existing law authorizes the Department of Fish and Game to contract with the owners or lessees of land for the establishment of cooperative hunting areas. This bill would repeal that provision and instead would require the department to establish the Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement Program, to encourage private landowners to voluntarily make their land available to the public for wildlife-dependent recreational activities. Latest Major Action: **09/04/03 Read third time, passed, and to Assembly from Appropriations.**
- g. AB 400 – Harman – This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to require the department to convene an advisory panel to review current water quality monitoring standards with respect to sewage spills and their impact on beach safety, and determine if these standards should be modified to reflect scientific advancement as long as any revised standards do not result in less protection to public health. Latest Major Action: 02/18/03 From printer. May be heard in committee March 20.
- h. AB 407 – Harman – This bill would declare legislative intent regarding watershed protection programs and partnerships. (a) Adopt a formal policy of endorsing local, collaborative watershed partnerships as being in the state's interest. (b) Evaluate and implement opportunities to reconfigure state watershed programs and

organizations using principles of watershed management for more efficient and effective implementation of programs. (c) Establish a single set of overall principles, policies, and guidelines for watershed management. (d) Promote participation in local watershed partnerships by critical stakeholders, including, cities, counties, and special districts, that are essential to the implementation of watershed protection programs and partnerships. Latest Major Action: 02/18/03 From printer. May be heard in committee March 20.

- i. AB 586 – Koretz – This bill would enact the Litter and Marine Debris Reduction and Recycling Act, and would define terms, including defining the term "litter and marine debris" as meaning disposable cups and disposable bags, or parts thereof, that are improperly discarded by an individual or carried by the wind or water into the environment. The bill would require every retail seller who sells or provides a disposable bag or disposable cup in this state to pay a litter reduction and recycling fee to the State Board of Equalization for each disposable bag or disposable cup sold or provided to a retail consumer, except as specified. The bill would set the amount of the fee as \$0.02 for every disposable bag or disposable cup that contains less than 40% postconsumer recycled content. Latest Major Action: 04/28/03 Set, first hearing. Held in committee.
- j. AB 594 – Leno – This bill would exempt from CEQA a project that consists of restriping an existing paved right-of-way for bicycle lanes, under specified conditions. Latest Major Action: 07/7/03 In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.
- k. AB 677 – Firebaugh – This bill would require a local agency or specified person, when the agency determines that a project is exempt from CEQA's requirements for certain reasons and when the agency approves or determines to carry out that project, to file notice of the determination with the Office of Planning and Research. The bill would require those notices to be available for public inspection as specified. By imposing new duties on local agencies, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. Latest Major Action: 9/08/03 Read second time. To third reading Appropriations.
- l. AB 817 – Pacheco – Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002: water quality. This bill would appropriate \$15,000,000 from bond funds made available by The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 to the State Water Resources Control Board to finance the creation, coordination, and implementation of a statewide education and outreach program related to water quality. Latest Major Action: 04/29/03 In Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.
- m. AB 859 – Nakano – Requires the California Coastal Conservancy (Coastal Conservancy) to develop an implementation plan that guides the development, funding, and operation of a network of regional, science-based ocean observing systems for use throughout the state. The Coastal Conservancy is required to report to the Governor, Legislature, and State Water Resources Control Board on the implementation plan by December 31, 2004. Latest Major Action: 9/08/03 Read third time, amended, and returned to third reading Appropriations.

- n. AB 877 – Maddox – This bill would declare that urban runoff that has been discharged from a municipal storm sewer system into a natural coastal creek, if not otherwise diverted for beneficial use in accordance with law, is unappropriated water that is subject to appropriation. Latest Major Action: 04/22/03 In Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.
- o. AB 1054 – Spitzer – Water quality: bond appropriation. This bill would appropriate \$20,000,000 of the \$300,000,000 Proposition 40 money available for the purposes of clean beaches, watershed protection, and water quality projects to Orange County for clean beaches, watershed protection, and water quality projects to protect beaches, coastal waters, rivers, lakes, and streams from contaminants, pollution, and other environmental threats, including, but not limited to, stormdrain-to-sewer diversions, stormdrain filters or screens, and regional education programs. Latest Historical Action: 4/21/03 Hearing postponed by Committee on Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials.
- p. AB 1110 – Harman – This bill appropriates \$10 million of the proceeds of bonds issued under the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) to the Department of Health Services (DHS) to be spent for public drinking water system security projects. Latest Major Action: Amended 4/21/03 and 4/29/03. 05/28/03: In committee: Set, second hearing. Held under submission.
- q. AB 1280 – Liu – This bill would add a provision to the definition of the territory of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to clarify that the conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy may enter into a memorandum of agreement to pursue joint projects. The bill would also revise the provision describing the duties of the conservancy to refer to the San Gabriel Valley Water Association instead of the San Gabriel Valley Watermaster. Latest Major Action: 05/05/03 In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.
- r. AB 1300 – Laird – This bill does two main things: First, it makes a number of findings, including: 1) In allocating funds made available by Proposition 50, each administrative agency should select projects that are accorded "high priority" status by public officials. 2) Proposition 50 funds that are not otherwise allocated to specific geographic areas shall be allocated with the goal of achieving geographic equity. Second, it requires the Secretary of the Resources Agency to prepare an annual report that summarizes Proposition 50 expenditures and make the information available to the public through the Internet and by any other means that the agency determines is cost effective. The report is to include a table that includes all of the following information: 1) the name and a description of each project for which funds have been allocated. 2) The city, county, and region in which the project is located. 3) The amount of funds allocated. Identification of the provisions of the bond act pursuant to which the funds were allocated. 4) Other relevant information, as determined by the secretary. Latest Major Action: 07/08/03 In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author. 06/12/03 Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Water Resources.

- s. AB 1405 – Wolk & Harman – This bill would enact the California Watershed Protection and Restoration Act. The act would ~~state the policy of the state to endorse voluntary local, collaborative watershed partnerships as being in the state's interest in terms of effectiveness, citizen involvement, and community responsibility~~ declare that the Legislature encourages the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Resources Agency to provide assistance and grants under the act to those who choose to participate in watershed restoration and enhancement. The act would make certain declarations regarding voluntary, local, and collaborative watershed partnerships. The bill would require state agencies that adopt guidelines for use by local watershed partnerships to provide specified mechanisms and would authorize state agencies with jurisdiction over watershed planning and protection to provide technical assistance to watershed management partnerships, to the extent that funds are available. **Latest Major Action: 9/04/03 Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations. Pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2.**
- t. AB1548 – Pavely – This bill established the Office of Education on the Environment (OEE) within the California Environmental Protection Agency and requires it to develop environmental education principles and a model curriculum. **Latest Major Action: 09/04/03 Read third time, passed, and to Assembly from Appropriations.**
- u. AB 1748 – Laird – This bill provides for procedures for public review of state agency acquisition of conservation lands. This bill requires the Secretary of the State Resources Agency to delegate his or her responsibilities for the administration of the river parkway programs financed by the Proposition 50 or by funds appropriated in the Budget Act of 2003 for the river parkway program, conducted under Proposition 40, except funds allocated to the urban streams program, as specified. This bill requires the Secretary of the State Resources Agency to delegate his or her responsibilities for the administration of a grant program for acquisition of land or water resources the Sierra Nevada-Cascade mountain region and allows the wildlife conservation board to provide grants, as specified. **Latest Major Action: 08/14/03 Vetoed by Governor. 8/18/03 Consideration of Governor's veto pending.**
- v. SB 21 – Machado – Existing law authorizes the Department of Transportation to lease or rent lands held by the department for highway purposes. This bill would require the Director of Transportation to establish on January 1, 2004, the 710 Freeway Corridor Task Force with a specified membership. It would require the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature regarding rental rates on department-owned residential property in the 710 Freeway Corridor. This bill, until January 1, 2005, would prohibit the department from increasing the level of rents on residential units owned by the department and occupied as of July 1, 2001, within the 710 Corridor of southern California. The bill would place a moratorium on any without cause eviction processes against persons who, on July 1, 2001, occupied those units. **Latest Major Action: Amended 6/2/03 and 6/3/03. 06/09/03 In Senate. Read first time. To Committee on Rules for assignment.**
- w. SB 251 – Machado – Land conservation assistance center. This bill would require the Secretary of the Resources Agency to establish an online land conservation assistance center through the Internet. The center would be available for use by the general public and would provide information on opportunities and options available

for land conservation in various programs. Latest Major Action: 05/29/03 Set, first hearing. Held in committee and under submission.

- x. SB 312 – Machado – As proposed to be amended, SB 312 would rename the "Water Conservation in Landscaping Act" to the "Urban Landscape Water Conservation Act of 2003" and would (1) make a number of declarations and findings; (2) require the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to establish a new model water efficient landscape ordinance; (3) create a funding priority for agencies that have adopted and enforced either the state or an equivalent local landscape ordinance; (4) require dedicated water meters for landscapes for billing purposes; and (5) make specified sections of the bill only operative if funds are made available in the budget or from other non-state sources for the purposes of those sections. Latest Major Action: 05/29/03 Set, first hearing. Held in committee and under submission.
- y. SB 475 – Florez – SB 475 would (1) require the Department of Health Services (DHS) to develop minimum standards for sanitation of high-use or priority freshwater bathing areas, as defined; (2) impose various duties on DHS and local health officers and environmental directors, as specified; and (3) require local agencies to notify the public by posting a notice at public beaches stating that beach inspections to ensure compliance with health and sanitation standards are not being conducted. Latest Major Action: 05/29/03 Set, first hearing. Held in committee and under submission.
- z. SB 518 – Escutia – Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002. This bill would require agencies required to carry out certain provisions of the act to consider adopting criteria that includes a preference for projects that benefit those areas with the highest population density and that face water supply shortages because their domestic water wells are located within 500 feet of groundwater recharge areas, and projects that benefit severely economically disadvantaged areas or economically disadvantaged areas that will enhance environmental justice, if those projects are otherwise eligible for assistance in accordance with the applicable requirements of the act. The bill would exempt a project that benefits a severely economically disadvantaged area from any matching fund requirements established by certain administering agencies and would prohibit those agencies from imposing a matching fund requirement that exceeds 5% of the amount of the grant awarded for a project that benefits an economically disadvantaged area. Latest Major Action: 04/22/03 Testimony taken. Hearing postponed by committee.
- aa. SB 564 – Ackerman – This bill would appropriate \$15,000,000 from bond funds made available by that measure to Orange County to fund new water-efficient landscape management technologies, including, but not limited to, the acquisition and distribution of water efficient irrigation controllers to decrease the use of potable water for exterior irrigation purposes and significantly reduce urban runoff in urban communities. Latest Major Action: 04/21/03 In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.
- bb. SB 750 – Machado – Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality, Flood Protection, and Water Supply Reliability Act of 2004. This bill would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality, Flood Protection, and Water Supply Reliability Act of 2004, which, if adopted, would authorize, for purposes of financing a safe drinking water, water quality, flood protection, and water supply reliability program, the issuance, pursuant



to the State General Obligation Bond Law, of bonds in the amount of \$5,000,000,000. The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute. Latest Major Action: 07/08/03 From committee: Do pass, but first be re-referred to Committee on Appropriations. (Ayes 6, Noes 1) Page 1695 Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations. 7/3/03 Set for hearing July 7.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003  
**TO:** RMC Governing Board  
**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Item 6(B): Budget Expenditure Report

The report for this item will be distributed under separate cover when it becomes available.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003  
**TO:** RMC Governing Board  
**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Item 6(C): Status report on RMC's Subsequent Plans

**DISCUSSION:**

**River Parkway Plan**

For the Los Angeles River Master Plan, staff has conducted a baseline analysis of the plan elements and possible gaps for RMC purposes. As to the San Gabriel River Master Plan substantive work has taken place. The RMC is also a co-partner with the San Gabriel Valley COG on the Rio Hondo Sub watershed plan. The San Gabriel, Compton Creek and Coyote Creek plans are also under way with RMC staff involvement. The following is a summary of the current status of the Tributary/Sub-Watershed Plans:

Upper San Gabriel River Watershed

Lead: San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy

Status: Has held several stakeholder meetings, and is using other grant sources including RMC to embellish the scope of work

Coyote Creek Watershed

Lead: Orange County/Army Corps of Engineers

Status: Finalizing further funding, has held one stakeholder meeting

Rio Hondo River Watershed

Lead: San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

Status: Contract has been approved by the Regional Board, and the consultant has held several advisory and focus group meetings.

Compton Creek

Lead: Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council

Status: Contract with the Regional Board is approved and a project manager is being selected.

Staff plans to have a comprehensive report on this item at the next meeting.

**Trails and Bike Path Plan**

This plan is recommended for funding under item 9(c).

**Mountains, Hills and Foothills Plan**

Kelly Schmoker, RMC Environmental Scientist, will present a status report on this plan in conjunction with the Habitat Plan at the next meeting.

**Historical and Cultural Landscapes Plan**

Plan has been approved by the Board

**Habitat Conservation Plan**

Kelly Schmoker, RMC Environmental Scientist, will present a status report on this plan in at the next meeting.

**Monitoring and Assessment Plan**

Kelly Schmoker, RMC Environmental Scientist, will present a status report on this plan in conjunction with the Habitat Plan at the next meeting.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 6(D): Review and discussion of Fiscal Year 2002/2003 Proposition 40 Grant Implementation Program

Since our last Board meeting on July 24, 2003, staff finalized the grant agreement template and worked with all grantees to address scope of work issues. Grant agreements were distributed to the 19 approved projects and will be executed as soon as they are received. The performance period for the acquisition projects is 12 months from August 29, 2003, which is the date the contracts were mailed. The performance period for all other projects will be coordinated with each project's timeline, but not more than three years from August 29, 2003.

Staff has also worked with the remaining 15 projects that were approved for further discussions on June 30, 2003 in order to solidify the project and/or address issues. These 15 are recommended for approval in this agenda under Item 7. We expect to distribute grant agreements to the remaining 15 grantees within the next two weeks.

In some cases, the amount of the funding was modified to reflect either the necessity for additional funds for a quality project, or a reduction in order to fall within the scope of the project. For example, the Puente Creek Nature Education Center project in the City of La Puente was originally scheduled to receive \$25,000. However, it was determined that \$300,000 was needed for land acquisition and another \$100,000 for project planning.

Several projects submitted under this grant program are recommended for funding under today's Item 9. Although they were not selected in the competitive process, they were identified as priorities. For example, staff is recommending a \$100,000 planning grant to the City of Compton for the Compton Creek project. The City has yet to conduct a formalized plan, yet has gained tremendous support for this project, including over \$1 million for capital outlay improvements.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(A): Consideration of the resolution approving Watershed Conservation Authority Fiscal Year 2003/2004 annual budget

**BACKGROUND:**

On April 17, 2003, the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) Governing Board adopted an initial budget in the amount of \$500. Since that time the WCA Governing Board has authorized a grant application to the Resources Agency in the amount of \$3,000,000 and accepted a grant from the Rivers & Mountains Conservancy in the amount of \$1,300,000 for acquisition of the Woodland Duck Farm. Further, due to the increased activity level of the WCA it is expected that operational expenses will exceed the amount originally authorized by the Board.

On August 25, 2003, the WCA Governing Board adopted a 2003/2004 budget in the amount of \$4,304,500 (Exhibit A). Therefore, in accordance with the terms of the joint powers agreement, the WCA is submitting the attached budget for approval by the Rivers & Mountains Conservancy (RMC).

It should be noted that further budget revisions will be necessary when escrow closes to provide for Woodland Duck Farm maintenance and administrative costs such as fire insurance, a liability policy, security patrols, etc. Staff is anticipating that these costs will be paid from lease revenues which will remain in place at least throughout the Phase II Planning process. Current lease revenues are approximately \$163,800 annually. It is recommended that any future budget amendments consider appropriation of revenues in excess of maintenance costs be applied to Phase II planning expenses. However, as noted above these matters will be the subject of a future budget amendment when more detailed information will be known about the costs for each expenditure item.

In order to efficiently manage the operations budget it is recommended that the Executive Officer be authorized to make inter-category transfers of up to 10% within the total amount authorized in the budget. Such transfers shall be reported to the WCA Governing Board at the next regularly scheduled WCA meeting. All grants approved by the RMC to the WCA this date will also be added to the budget and the total amount adjusted accordingly.

**STAFF RECOMMENDED:**

That the RMC Governing Board approve the Watershed Conservation Authority Fiscal Year 2003/2004 annual budget.

## Exhibit A

**WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
FY 2003/04 Annual Budget**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Total Annual Amount</b>
<b>Operational Expenses</b>	
Postage	\$350
Office Supplies	\$250
Copying	\$300
Professional Services	\$15,000
Misc.	\$3,600
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$19,500</b>
<b>Capital Expenses</b>	
Land Acquisition	\$4,017,000
Land Improvements	\$268,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$4,285,000</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,304,500</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Resources Agency Prop 13 Grant	\$3,000,000
RMC Prop 40 Grant	\$1,300,000
RMC Administrative Grant	\$4,500
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,304,500</b>

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(B): Consideration of resolution supporting Assembly Bill 1548 (Pavely)

**BACKGROUND:**

Existing law establishes the Office of Integrated Environmental Education within the Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB), and requires the office to develop and implement a unified education strategy on the environment for elementary and secondary schools. Assembly Bill (AB 1548), introduced on February 21, 2003 and as amended on August 29, 2003, would repeal those provisions and, instead, establish the Office of Education and the Environment (Office) with similar duties. AB 1548 would require the Office of Education and the Environment to report to both the Secretary for Environmental Protection and to the IWMB.

AB 1548 would require the Office to develop education principles for the environment for elementary and secondary school pupils by July 1, 2004. The bill would require the Office to develop a model curriculum incorporating these principles and to submit the model curriculum for consideration as part of the State Board of Education's approved model curriculum. The bill would require the State Department of Education (DOE) to incorporate the materials developed by the Office into prescribed publications, and would require DOE to make the curriculum available electronically and incorporate the principles into the next cycle, in which curriculum frameworks and their accompanying instructional materials are adopted. The bill would require the Office to coordinate with all state agencies, including the RMC. AB 1548 would also establish the Environmental Education Account and would authorize deposit of funds from prescribed sources for expenditure for the purposes of this bill, upon appropriation by the Legislature.

AB 1548 passed by majority vote through the Appropriation Committee on August 29, 2003.

The RMC authorizing statute (Public Resources Code, Sections 32602(a) authorizes the RMC to acquire and manage public lands within the Lower Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River watersheds, and to provide open-space, low-impact recreational and **educational** uses, water conservation, watershed improvement, wildlife and habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvement within the territory. AB 1548 will develop and implement a unified education strategy on the environment for elementary and secondary schools that will foster watershed stewardship among the youth of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watersheds. This bill also provides State mandated educational framework that can enhance the educational components of future RMC funded projects and provides a platform for fulfilling the RMC's commitment to providing open-space educational uses and environmental education for elementary school aged children, as stated in *Common Ground:Open Space Plan, Phase II*.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the RMC Governing Board pass a resolution in support of Assembly Bill 1548 and authorize RMC staff to provide a copy of the resolution to AB 1548's author.



**DATE: September 15, 2003**

**TO: RMC Governing Board**

**FROM: Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer**

**SUBJECT: Item 7(C): Consideration of resolution authorizing fiscal year 2002/2003 Proposition 40 Competitive Program grants**

RMC received 101 applications seeking over \$100 million from the \$16 million in the Proposition 40 2002/03 Regular and Small Grant Programs. The grant guidelines for both programs specified the focus of the RMC, the types of projects envisioned, and the intent of this competitive grant cycle. It was indicated that projects should be focused on resources, open space, watershed protection, trails, low-impact recreation, wildlife/habitat, and cultural, historic, or scenic resources. Furthermore, the guidelines emphasized partnerships and education. A total of 66 applications requesting \$99,150,371 were received in the Regular Grant Program while 35 applications requesting \$2,936,466 were received in the Small Grant Program. The applications received from cities totaled 73, other government agencies 11, and non-profit organizations, 17.

As of July 31, 2003, the Governing Board authorized 19 grants in the amount of \$9,626,933. The Board also authorized RMC staff to enter into discussions with 15 of the 34 projects recommended for funding. These projects were substantially qualified based on project scope, scores and/or program area, yet required modification to one or more of the project's components. Staff has met with the proponents of each project and are in the process of finalizing project scope of work. These projects are presented within Item 7 of this agenda for consideration for funding. However, in order to proceed expeditiously with the encumbrance of these grants staff is recommending final approval of the grant provided however that a mutually acceptable work plan can be finalized over the next 90 days.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(1): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the City of Diamond Bar for the Sycamore Canyon Park Trail Development Project

<b>Project:</b>	Sycamore Canyon Park Trail Development Project	
<b>Applicant:</b>	City of Diamond Bar	
<b>Program area:</b>	Urban Core Lands	
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$124,081	
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$124,081	
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Low Impact Recreational Improvements	
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	Non-native vegetation	
<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	11	17
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	23	28
III. Educational and Cultural	5	11
IV. Natural Resources	10 + 2	21 + 1 point for each listed species
Multiple Benefits Factor	2	4
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	53	77 + extra points for each listed species

### **BACKGROUND:**

The project would develop the first trail increment of the City's five site city-wide trail system. Sycamore Canyon Park is an existing 50 acre city park that provides active recreation along with an undeveloped trail that begins at the existing parking lot near Golden Springs Drive and travels through undeveloped areas east toward Diamond Bar Boulevard. The undeveloped trails follow near an existing stream and four acres of walnut woodlands capable of supporting California Gnatcatcher and the Arroyo Toad. The proposal would result in a clearly defined path surfaced with decomposed granite and redwood headers. Railroad tie steps will be installed along steeper grades to improve user safety. View decks are proposed overlooking the stream and near the trailhead at Diamond Bar Boulevard. The conceptual design indicates two proposed parking spaces along Diamond Bar Boulevard.

The application scored well in Urban, Recreational and Open Space factors. It presents an opportunity to enhance existing low impact recreational activities. The City has earmarked more than 50% of the overall budget from matching funds and Land and Water Conservation Fund funds.

Since the City of Diamond Bar officially opposed RMC's Open Space Plan, staff previously recommended that funding for this project be withheld until the City revisited the opportunity to adopt *Common Ground*. Staff notified the City of this condition and discussed the issue with City staff. The City officially opposed *Common Ground* because it had elements, including land use and circulation that directly conflicted with the City's General Plan. Bob Huff, a City of Diamond Bar Councilmember, spoke to the RMC Board at the July Board meeting and indicated the two sides should work with common elements. In order to follow up on this matter, a letter was sent to the City on July 29, 2003. (See attached Exhibit A) Subsequently, the City indicated that the City Council did not see any reason to amend their official position opposing *Common Ground*. (See attached Exhibit B)

The project appears to provide opportunities consistent with the RMC's goals, including providing low impact recreation. It may also serve as an incubator for future projects in the City of Diamond Bar that are mutually beneficial, including connections to nearby open space areas and water quality enhancement projects. Therefore, staff is inclined to recommend approval of the grant while continuing discussions with the City in an effort to define our "Common Ground."

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of Diamond Bar in an amount not to exceed \$124,081 for the Sycamore Canyon Park Trail Development Project subject to the conditions in the staff report.

## EXHIBIT A



CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

# San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

July 29, 2003

### Governing Board of the Conservancy

Frank Colonna  
Chair  
City of Long Beach

Bev Perry  
Vice-Chair  
Orange County Division of the League of  
California Cities

Mary D. Nichols  
Secretary for Resources  
Resources Agency

Margaret Clark  
San Gabriel Valley Council of  
Governments

Cristina Cruz Madrid  
San Gabriel Valley Council of  
Governments

Ed Wilson  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments

David D. De Jesus  
Covina Irrigating Company  
San Gabriel Valley Water Association

Steve Peace  
Director  
Department of Finance

Winston H. Hickox  
Secretary  
California Environmental Protection  
Agency

Gloria Molina  
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Rick Ruiz  
Environmental Public Member

Dr. Paul Yost  
Director  
Orange County Division of the League of  
California Cities

Dan Arrighi  
Central Basin Water Association

Ruth Coleman  
Acting Director  
Department of Parks and Recreation

Colonel Richard Thompson  
District Engineer, Los Angeles District  
US Army Corps of Engineers

Al Wright  
Executive Director  
Wildlife Conservation Board

Thomas M. Stetson  
San Gabriel River Water Master

Jim Noyes  
LA County Public Works

Jack Blackwell  
Angeles National Forest  
US Forest Service

Vicki Wilson  
Orange County Executive Office

Belinda V. Faustinos  
Executive Officer

### VIA FACSIMILE AND REGULAR MAIL

Linda C. Lowry  
City of Diamond Bar  
21825 E. Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA

Re: Sycamore Canyon Park Project

Dear Ms. Lowry,

Thank you for your July 15, 2003 letter wherein you requested additional information regarding the Sycamore Canyon Park project application for RMC Proposition 40 funds. First of all please be advised that the City submitted an excellent and very competitive application package. As you may be aware it scored very well in our project evaluation criteria.

The RMC Board adopted a resolution on June 19, 2003 authorizing staff to enter into discussion with the City to finalize funding recommendations for this project. As explained to your staff during our field visit and in subsequent conversations with Jim DeStefano, Deputy City Manager our primary concern is related the City's action opposing *Common Ground*. While RMC's grant guidelines did not require adoption of Common Ground as a prerequisite we would like to take this opportunity to explore a reconsideration of the City's position on *Common Ground*.

While our ultimate goal would be to obtain a resolution from the City of Diamond Bar endorsing the concepts found in *Common Ground*, we understand that the City has issues with certain elements of the plan which are in conflict with the City's General Plan. However, at our Board meeting last week, Councilman Bob Huff indicated through the use of a Venn diagram that, in fact, we do have areas of "Common Ground."

900 S. Fremont Ave., Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor • P.O. Box 1460 • Alhambra, CA 91802-1460  
Phone: (626) 458-4315 • Fax: (626) 979-5363 • E-mail: [bfaustinos@rmc.ca.gov](mailto:bfaustinos@rmc.ca.gov)  
[www.rmc.ca.gov](http://www.rmc.ca.gov)

We would propose that the City consider at minimum endorsing those elements of commonality between our plans. Over the next several RMC meetings staff will be preparing final recommendations on Proposition 40 funding and we are focused on resolving these matters as quickly as possible. Therefore, if you believe it would be helpful to discuss this further in person we will be happy to set up a meeting at your convenience.

Once again, thank you for contacting me. I look forward to resolving this issue and moving forward with the project. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me or Enrique Arroyo, Deputy Executive Officer and manger for this project.

Sincerely,

Belinda V. Faustinos  
Executive Officer

**EXHIBIT B**



## City of Diamond Bar

21825 E. Copley Drive • Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178

(909) 860-2489 • Fax (909) 861-3117

[www.CityofDiamondBar.com](http://www.CityofDiamondBar.com)

September 8, 2003

Ms. Belinda V. Faustinos  
Executive Officer  
San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
P.O. Box 1460  
Alhambra, CA 91802

Re: Sycamore Canyon Park Trail and Trailhead Project Grant

Dear Ms. Faustinos:

Thank you for your letter of July 29, 2003. I appreciate your response to my earlier communication.

Your letter referenced the "common ground" statements by Mayor Pro Tem Bob Huff during a recent Board meeting. We do indeed share several areas where there exists "common ground" between the City of Diamond Bar General Plan and the RMC Open Space Plan entitled - Common Ground. There are also areas where there exist concepts and views that conflict. In those areas where we disagree, I do not perceive a willingness on the part of the City Council to change the position they took upon approval of Resolution No.2002-14 which opposed adoption of the Open Space Plan; nor would I recommend they do so.

The City of Diamond Bar General Plan asserts six visions, one of which is to mitigate the impacts of regional traffic. Unlike most cities, the Diamond Bar electorate did affirm, by direct vote, the contents of the General Plan. The City Council cannot set aside this historic action by adoption of a resolution approving portions of the RMC Open Space Plan in order to obtain funds for a qualified park improvement.

The implementation of the Common Ground document can or will obstruct the development of the bypass road referred to in the City's General Plan.

**Carol Herrera**  
*Mayor*

**Robert S. Huff**  
*Mayor Pro Tem*

**Wen P. Chang**  
*Council Member*

**Deborah H. O'Connor**  
*Council Member*

**Robert P. Zirbes**  
*Council Member*

Ms. Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer  
September 8, 2003  
Page Two

As long as the Common Ground document conflicts with our General Plan objective to create an "environmentally sensitive bypass roadway" in order to accommodate the Inland Valley traffic that currently and most importantly will continue to cut across Diamond Bar's streets, the City cannot support the document.

We understand that State Resource Agency Secretary Nichols' representative, Heather Barnett, has asked that our project be placed on the next agenda. We understand it is her expectation that our Sycamore Canyon Park Trail and Trailhead Project grant request will be approved without a condition for the City to change its position relating to the Open Space Plan.

The City respects those aspects of the Project Evaluation Criteria that led to the Sycamore Canyon Park project being scored highest in its category. As was indicated in your letter, the RMC's grant guidelines do not require the grant applicant to approve the Common Ground document as a prerequisite to receiving funds. While the goals of the City and the RMC may conflict, there are also many areas of "common ground". Our mutual goals to improve parks and trails will lead to an appreciation by present and future generations.

On behalf of the City of Diamond Bar, I suggest that the RMC proceed with approval of the Sycamore Canyon Park Trail and Trailhead Project Proposition 40 grant funding without further contingencies or delay.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda C. Lowry".

Linda Lowry City Manager

c: City Council

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(2): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the City of El Monte for Rio Vista Park Restoration and Conservation Project.

<b>Project:</b>	Rio Vista Park Restoration and Conservation Program		
<b>Applicant:</b>	City of El Monte		
<b>Program area:</b>	River/Tributary Parkways		
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$353,615		
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$295,000		
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Planning		
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	Renovations (bathrooms)		
<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>			
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>	
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	9	17	
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	19	28	
III. Educational and Cultural	6	11	
IV. Natural Resources	2 + 0	21 + 1 point for each listed species	
Multiple Benefits Factor	0	4	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	36	77 + extra points for each listed species	

### **BACKGROUND:**

Rio Vista Park project is a proposal to restore native vegetation, increase access via pedestrian and bicycle trails, and provide interpretive displays on the historical significance of the area surrounding the park and the adjacent Rio Hondo. The construction of new interpretive environmental education classrooms and the reconstruction of an existing ADA compliant ramp that links the park with Rio Vista School are also proposed. The project improves a public open space resource, enhances a riverfront greenway, provides enhanced accessibility to trails, and is a significant historic resource to the watershed.

The City of El Monte has agreed to pursue alternate funding for restroom rehabilitation, which was identified as an ineligible cost during the initial evaluation of the project. In addition, the City of El Monte has requested assistance from the Sierra Club to strengthen the connection between Rio Vista Park and the Rio Hondo.



**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of El Monte in an amount not to exceed \$295,000 for the Rio Vista Park Restoration and Conservation Project.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(3): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the City of Fullerton for the Laguna Lake Park Master Plan, Phase 2 Project

<b>Project:</b>	Laguna Lake Park Master Plan, Phase 2	
<b>Applicant:</b>	City of Fullerton	
<b>Program area:</b>	Mountains, Hills and Foothills	
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$900,000	
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$500,000	
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Planning/Implementation for trail area, native vegetation, handicap parking and educational elements	
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	Remaining elements	
<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	9	17
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	19	28
III. Educational and Cultural	5	11
IV. Natural Resources	6 + 0	21 + 1 point for each listed species
Multiple Benefits Factor	1	4
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	40	77 + extra points for each listed species

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Laguna Lake Park Master Plan, Phase 2 Improvements propose to improve access, improve quality of habitat and open space, increase educational opportunities and improve accessibility of Laguna Lake open space resources to the Orange County regional trail system. Specific improvements include removal of non-native vegetation, new native landscaping and water efficient irrigation, new ADA parking lot, outdoor classroom/kiosks, eco-friendly benches and picnic areas, ADA accessible walks and ramps, realignment and improvement of park trails, and addition of minor retaining walls. A partnership with the California Coastal Conservancy has been established for water quality improvements to the park.

The project improves a public open space resource, promotes stewardship of landscape through interpretive educational kiosks, and provides enhance accessibility to the access to trails.

The RMC considers improvements to the Bud Turner Regional Trail, and habitat within the park a priority component of this project. Funding is recommended for only this portion of the project.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of Fullerton in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the Laguna Lake Park Master Plan, Phase 2 project.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(4): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the City of Glendora for the Gordon Mull Property Acquisition Project

<b>Project:</b>	Gordon Mull Property	
<b>Applicant:</b>	City of Glendora	
<b>Program area:</b>	Mountains, Hills and Foothills	
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$ 5,000,000	
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$ 2,500,000	
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Partial funding for acquisition of the Gordon Mull Property	
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	N/A	
<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	14	17
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	12	28
III. Educational and Cultural	2	11
IV. Natural Resources	13+1	21 + 1 point for each listed species
Multiple Benefits Factor	1	4
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	43	77 + extra points for each listed species

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Gordon Mull Property, 29 acres of hillside open space property in the San Gabriel Mountain foothills north of Glendora, contains two blue-line streams and connected wetlands, sensitive plant communities including coastal sage scrub and walnut woodland and 8 identified sensitive plant and animal species.

The project will increase the linkage to the Foothills Wildlife Corridor and create interpretive nature trails linked to the existing foothill trail system. The property consists of a north/south trending ridge and slopes to the canyon bottoms of two flanking canyons on the east and west: Mull Canyon and Gordon Canyon. Debris basins have been constructed at the base of the canyons on either side of the property. An existing County Flood Control road provides access to the site. The property is part of an approved subdivision identified as Tract 45858. The eastern half of the tract has been improved with streets, graded pads and improvements while lots in the eastern portion of the tract are currently being developed with larger single family homes.

The Gordon Mull proposal scored well in the areas of Feasibility, Open Space and Natural resources. The city has been working with a willing seller and the preservation of this land for an open space project is a priority for the city. The mostly undisturbed riparian habitat underlies its value in the natural resource category. There is a pending threat of development of this property if it is not acquired for open space.

The amount requested in the proposal that was submitted to the RMC did not reflect the estimated cost of the property. However, discussions with representatives for the city estimate a value of approximately \$5,000,000 for the property. Recommended funding will be contingent upon an appraisal that supports this estimate. RMC staff is exploring the availability of matching funds and because of this is recommending only partial funding for this property.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of Glendora in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(5): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the City of La Puente for the Puente Creek Nature Education Center

<b>Project:</b>	Puente Creek Nature Education Center	
<b>Applicant:</b>	City of La Puente	
<b>Program area:</b>	Urban Core Lands	
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$ 900,000	
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$400,000	
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Planning	
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	Construction and acquisition as proposed.	
<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	8	17
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	14	28
III. Educational and Cultural	6	11
IV. Natural Resources	7	21 + 1 point for each listed species
Multiple Benefits Factor	0	4
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	35	77 + extra points for each listed species

### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of La Puente proposes acquisition of a vacant parcel along Puente Creek on which the Nature Center would be located. Situated between an existing school and the channelized creek, the sheltered education center will provide the local community as well as the students of the surrounding school districts the opportunity to gain knowledge of environmental issues that face our communities. The proposed facility will be an area which schools and other community organizations will be able to access for practical learning opportunities and passive recreation.

The category scores for this project were high for feasibility, education and open space values. However, while the evaluation process highlighted the value of this project in a park poor area, certain deficiencies in the conceptual plan emerged.

Staff review of the layout outlined in the City's conceptual design for this project identified some site opportunities that had been overlooked and, as a result it is recommended that a further planning effort be undertaken towards making more efficient use of the site's opportunities and constraints. Improved programming and location of plan elements such as parking, and walkways would result in a project that will better serve the community.

In addition, acquisition of the site is necessary to secure future use. Acquisition was estimated at \$300,000, while site planning is estimated at \$100,000. Therefore, staff amends the previous amount considered, \$25,000, to an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of La Puente in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for the Puente Creek Nature Education Center.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(6): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the City of La Mirada for the Creek Park Restoration Project

<b>Project:</b>	Creek Park Restoration
<b>Applicant:</b>	City of La Mirada
<b>Program area:</b>	Urban Core Lands
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$100,000
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$150,000
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Planning
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	Construction

<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	8	17
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	14	28
III. Educational and Cultural	3	11
IV. Natural Resources	6 + 0	21 + 1 point for each listed species
Multiple Benefits Factor	0	4
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	31	77 + extra points for each listed species

### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of La Mirada submitted two applications and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works submitted one application for relatively similar projects either in scope or in geographic range. The two applications from the City deal with construction improvements to the three city parks along La Mirada Creek, while the County's application is for preparation of a project concept report.

Staff contacted both agencies to determine if a joint effort could be developed. Both agencies were present during the site tour, and both are amenable to a joint project, including the initial development of a Memorandum of Understanding. Staff recommends that funding be used to prepare a joint master plan, or similar document, for the entire geographic reach of the three projects. The plan will focus on the feasibility of restoring La Mirada Creek and providing habitat, water quality benefits, as well as educational opportunities. The master plan could then be used to implement habitat and creek restoration projects as funding becomes available.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of La Mirada in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the Creek Park Restoration project.



**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(7): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the City of Lynwood for the Lynwood Meadows project

<b>Project:</b>	Lynwood Meadows
<b>Applicant:</b>	City of Lynwood
<b>Program area:</b>	Urban Core Lands
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$627,072
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$562,379
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Implementation
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	Sand box and Cardio park equipment

<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	9	17
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	14	28
III. Educational and Cultural	2	11
IV. Natural Resources	3 + 0	21 + 1 point for each listed species
Multiple Benefits Factor	0	4
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	28	77 + extra points for each listed species

### **BACKGROUND:**

Lynwood Meadows is a proposal to rehabilitate a vacant city-owned property as a park. The project is located in a densely populated community. The majority of the park is proposed to be open space, except for a few picnic areas, gazebos, a sand box and a cardio park. Partnerships will be forged with local environmental groups for planning and implementation of the reintroduction of native vegetation. Public hearings will be conducted to solicit community suggestions and as an opportunity to educate the public on the advantages of planting native vegetation. This project will be a significant open space resource to the densely populated community and will be the first RMC project in the City of Lynwood.

Since the initial project evaluation, the City of Lynwood has proposed to contribute additional matching funds and has agreed to use those funds for planning of the project. In addition, the sand box and cardio park funding are not preferred project elements; therefore it is recommended that the City consider funding these elements or develop passive recreational elements in place of these non-preferred elements. RMC funds will be used solely for implementation of the open space and passive recreational designs for the park.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of Lynwood in an amount not to exceed \$562,379 for Lynwood Meadows.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(8): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the City of Palmdale for the Tejon Park expansion and Una Lake Project

<b>Project:</b>	Tejon Park expansion and Una Lake Project	
<b>Applicant:</b>	City of Palmdale	
<b>Program area:</b>	Mountains, Hills and Foothills	
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$950,000	
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$265,000	
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Partial funding for acquisition of Una Lake property	
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	Tejon Park expansion; full funding for acquisition of Una Lake property	
<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	9	17
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	19	28
III. Educational and Cultural	3	11
IV. Natural Resources	13+1	21 + 1 point for each listed species
Multiple Benefits Factor	1	4
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	47	77 + extra points for each listed species

### **BACKGROUND:**

Una Lake is a natural sag pond, which is an enclosed depression formed where active or recent fault movement along the San Andreas Fault resulted in impounded drainage. This proposal is for acquisition of Una Lake and surrounding wetland and hillside properties for preservation as natural open space and the expansion of Tejon Park. It encompasses approximately four acres of a 68-acre parcel located along the east side of Sierra Highway approximately ¼ mile south of Avenue S. The pond is primarily open water habitat, although portions of the flooded edges support riparian woodland and scrub habitat. The lake supports several species of waterfowl and fish. Una Lake provides foraging and nesting habitat for red-winged blackbird, mallard, belted kingfisher, double-crested cormorant, ruddy duck and American coot as well as several red-eared sliders and introduced turtle species. Una Lake is currently privately owned.

A park master plan for the City of Palmdale is currently under way to prepare for development of an open space park primarily for equestrian uses within the existing 20-acre Tejon Park. The contemplated acquisition of Una Lake and surrounding properties would significantly expand the size of Tejon Park from what exists today.

The project scored well in the open space and natural resource categories. It offers excellent potential for preservation of this natural resource of the expanding local community and for trail users. The area around Una Lake is currently the target of expanding residential and infrastructure development.

Staff considers a partial grant will enable the City of Palmdale to find matching funds for the acquisition of the Una Lake property.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of Palmdale in an amount not to exceed \$265,000 for the Tejon Park expansion and Una Lake project.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(9): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the City of Pico Rivera for improvements to the San Gabriel River and/or Rio Hondo Spreading Basins

<b>Project:</b>	San Gabriel Spreading Grounds Project	
<b>Applicant:</b>	City of Pico Rivera	
<b>Program area:</b>	River/Tributary Parkways	
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$760,000	
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$760,000	
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Trail, access, and interpretive improvements	
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	N/A	
<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	6	17
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	21	28
III. Educational and Cultural	4	11
IV. Natural Resources	3 + 0	21 + 1 point for each listed species
Multiple Benefits Factor	0	4
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	34	77 + extra points for each listed species

### **BACKGROUND:**

This is a multi-objective project located on the western side of the San Gabriel River between Whittier Boulevard and Washington Boulevard in the City of Pico Rivera. It would provide public access, create passive recreational opportunities, and enhance the site by developing a bike path, walking trail, rest area, interpretive signage, and improved public entrances, as well as, providing landscaping, irrigation, and lighting. The City is working closely with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) in developing this 128 acre site. Limited access to the San Gabriel Spreading Grounds (SGSG) is currently available from the eastern levee of the San Gabriel River bike trail. (See Exhibit B)

Staff originally considered recommending funds to the City of Pico Rivera for the Mines Avenue Bike Lane Improvement project, which would connect the San Gabriel River to the Rio Hondo via surface street improvements. However, subsequent discussions with the City revealed that the SGSG project had a higher priority. (See Exhibit A) In fact, the Mines Avenue project should be carried out after improvements to the SGSG are accomplished for the following reasons:

1) The Rio Hondo has already been improved to allow access from Mines Avenue, and 2) Currently, there is limited access to the SGSG.

The SGSG project correlates with RMC's objectives, including the expansion and improvement of, and access to open space, promotion of landscape stewardship, and the connection of open space with a network of trails. The project scored well in the RMC's Proposition 40 Grant Program in the Urban, Recreation and Open Space category. Its value is based on recreational connectivity and urban resource elements.

This project also has a potential to tie in with efforts to enhance other projects near the San Gabriel River. The City of Whittier is pursuing an effort for the reuse of an existing abandoned railroad right-of-way as a parkway that would connect to the San Gabriel River. [See Item 9(h)] Pio Pico State Historic Park is located just east of the San Gabriel River on Whittier Boulevard and was recently renovated. All three projects could serve as multiple destinations in this area.

The City is seeking additional funding from other sources for a visitor center near the rest area. Maintenance for the project would be provided pursuant to an interagency agreement between the City of Pico Rivera and DPW. Staff will work closely with the partner agencies to ensure that the project meets RMC's goals and objectives.

The City also applied to the Resources Agency for Proposition 12 funds for this project. If the Resources Agency funds the SGSG project, RMC will fund the Mines Avenue Bike Trail project. The amount recommended for funding is the amount requested for the Mines Avenue Bike Trail project. The City estimated the SGSG project would cost \$862,500. If the SGSG project is funded by RMC, staff will consider coming back to the Board for additional funding if necessary.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of Pico Rivera in an amount not to exceed \$760,000 for improvements to the San Gabriel River and/or Rio Hondo Spreading Basins or the Mines Avenue Bike Trail project, if Proposition 12 funds are approved for the SGSG.

**EXHIBIT A**

September 5, 2003



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DEBORAH LOPEZ  
ASSISTANT TO THE  
CITY MANAGER  
(562) 801-4386

CITY OF PICO RIVERA  
P.O. BOX 1016  
6615 PASSONS BLVD.  
PICO RIVERA, CA  
90660-1016

FAX (562) 801-4765

E-MAIL:  
DLOPEZ@PICO-RIVERA.ORG

Belinda Faustinos  
Executive Officer  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
900 South Fremont Avenue, Annex 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Alhambra. CA 91802-1460

Dear Ms. Faustinos:

The City of Pico Rivera would once again like to thank the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) for selecting the City's "**Paseo del Rio at San Gabriel Spreading Grounds Project**" and "**Mines Avenue Bike Lane Improvement Project**" as recipients of Proposition 40 grant funds.

Due to the nature of the overall project scopes, the City concurs with the RMC's recommendation to place a higher priority on the San Gabriel Spreading Grounds Project in order to initiate the implementation of an open space corridor between the Rio Rondo and San Gabriel Spreading Grounds. Per the RMC's agreement with the City, City staff understands that grant funds will be utilized to first supplement project costs associated with the San Gabriel Spreading Grounds Project. Proposition 40 funding will subsequently be provided for the Mines Avenue Improvement Project following the completion of the San Gabriel Spreading Grounds Project.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Raphael Guillen at (562) 801-4404.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Lopez".

Deborah Lopez  
Assistant to the City Manager

**Date:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(10): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the City of West Covina for the Galster Park Project

<b>Project:</b>	Galster Park Project
<b>Applicant:</b>	City of West Covina
<b>Program area:</b>	Mountains, Hills and Foothills
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$500,000
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$ 476,000
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Planning/construction
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	Restrooms

PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY		
Factor	Project Score	Total Possible Points
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	10	17
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	16	28
III. Educational and Cultural	3	11
IV. Natural Resources	9+5	21 + 1 point for each listed species
Multiple Benefits Factor	0	4
TOTAL POINTS	43	77 + extra points for each listed species

### **BACKGROUND:**

Galster Park is a wilderness park containing mostly undisturbed riparian and upland habitat with trails and camping facilities. The proposed facilities will provide a wilderness education experience for children in the San Gabriel Valley in a controlled setting.

The Master Plan for Galster Park completed in 1969 identified five zones: (1) the active park zone; (2) the overnight camping zones; (3) the nature study zones; (4) the wilderness zones; and (5) the circulation element. The initial pedestrian trails were developed in the wilderness zone. Extending the existing trails will increase the opportunities for enjoying wildlife, picnicking, hiking, camping, and other recreational activities. It is anticipated that extending the trails at Galster Park will eventually allow for trail connectivity with the nearby trails from the City of Walnut and Los Angeles County (Skyline/Schabarum).

The wilderness area is known for its diverse plant community. Most of the surrounding natural areas have been displaced by urban development. The ancillary natural habitats provide a connecting link between the adjacent open areas of San Jose Hills located east of the project



site, and Galster Wilderness Park located north of the project site. These natural areas adjacent to the project site provide water and nesting sites for a variety of wildlife species.

Score values for this project were high in the categories of feasibility, urban recreation and natural resource. This is based mainly on the unique character of the park and its potential to offer a wilderness experience to children from the surrounding areas as far as Pomona and Baldwin Park. In addition the natural resources present an opportunity to educate visitors on native habitat and wildlife.

Staff recommends funding subject to the establishment of a progressive program of exotic weed removal to ensure the sustainability of the habitat in the park. In addition any new planting should be limited to plants native to the area.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of West Covina in an amount not to exceed \$476,000 for the Galster Park Project consistent with the conditions identified in the staff report.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(11): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works for San Jose Creek Bicycle Trail Phase II

<b>Project:</b>	San Jose Creek Bicycle Trail Phase II	
<b>Applicant:</b>	County of Los Angeles DPW, Watershed Management	
<b>Program area:</b>	River/Tributary Parkways	
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$4,000,000	
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$200,000	
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Planning	
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	Implementation	
<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	11	17
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	20	28
III. Educational and Cultural	2	11
IV. Natural Resources	6	21 + 1 point for each listed species
Multiple Benefits Factor	1	4
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	40	77 + extra points for each listed species

**BACKGROUND:**

The San Jose Creek Bicycle Trail Phase II consists of the construction of a Class I bicycle trail from the San Jose Creek Bicycle Trail at Workman Mill Road to the San Gabriel River Bicycle Trail. The project closes the existing gap between these two major trails. In order to accomplish this gap closure, two bicycle bridges will be constructed, one over the San Jose Creek and the other over the San Gabriel River.

Upon completion, the San Jose Creek Bicycle Trail Phase II will be 0.7 mile in length and constructed to a 12 foot width consistent with current standards. It will extend from Workman Mill Road on the south side of San Jose Creek to the existing County Sanitation District facility in the vicinity of Belgreen Drive. At that point, it will bridge across the San Jose Creek, continue along the north side of San Jose Creek, cross under the San Gabriel River Freeway, bridge over the San Gabriel River, and join the San Gabriel River Bicycle Trail. In addition to closing the existing gap between the two trails, the project will enhance the surrounding landscape and hardscape while also improving the slope protection and drainage in the area.

Partial funding for this project has already been secured and because of this, the proposal scored well on feasibility. It also received high scores in the urban open space and recreation category due to its proposed connection of the existing trail network on west bank of the San Gabriel River to the eastern bike trails along San Jose Creek. North East Trees, whose San Jose Creek Greenway Improvement project was approved for funding by the RMC Board in June, includes signage and education as well as landscape improvements along San Jose Creek. Cooperation in planning, signage and education between Los Angeles County Watershed Management Division and North East Trees, is strongly encouraged in order to maximize the opportunities for enhancement of this important trail segment.

Funding for implementation is not recommended at this stage as the project is still in the planning phase.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the San Jose Creek Bicycle Trail Phase II project.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(12): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works for Zone 1 Ditch Channel Enhancement Project

<b>Project:</b>	Zone 1 Ditch Channel Enhancement Project	
<b>Applicant:</b>	Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	
<b>Program area:</b>	River/Tributary Parkways	
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$250,000	
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$125,000	
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Planning/feasibility study	
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	Implementation	
<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	12	17
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	23	28
III. Educational and Cultural	5	11
IV. Natural Resources	18	21 + 1 point for each listed species
Multiple Benefits Factor	3	4
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	61+4	77 + extra points for each listed species

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Zone 1 Ditch channel (also known as Lario Creek) was constructed to divert water from the San Gabriel River through the Whittier Narrows Nature Center area to facilitate groundwater recharge into the Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds. The goal of the Zone 1 Ditch Channel Enhancement Project is to perform stream bank stabilization and restoration while increasing the channel's ability to divert water for groundwater replenishment. Stream bank stabilization and restoration will be accomplished using bioengineering techniques, removing invasive vegetation, and revegetating with native plants. Enhancing and restoring the vegetation will also promote ecological diversity, provide additional wildlife habitat, and increase its educational value. The project area is host to over 250 species of birds. The federally endangered least Bell's vireos (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and Special Status Species like the double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) and Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) are known to frequent the project area.

Vegetation planted to promote bank stabilization will increase the percentage of the local urban forest thereby improving air quality, increasing shade and comfort, and supporting riparian and

aquatic habitat. The project will contribute significantly to the recreational opportunities for the communities of South El Monte, Pico Rivera, Whittier, and other nearby communities. The site is proposed to be open to the public to enjoy the low impact recreational amenities and educational opportunities.

The project has strong scores in the categories of open space, feasibility, and natural resources. The education value of the project could be enhanced during the planning phase by including components to inform the users on how the waterway functions in the replenishment of the groundwater.

Funding is recommended for planning with the expectation that overlap in Phase I and Phase II planning is avoided and that education be given greater emphasis.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 for the Zone 1 Ditch Channel Enhancement Project.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(13): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works for the Dominguez Gap Wetlands Multiuse Project

<b>Project:</b>	Dominguez Gap Wetlands Multiuse Project	
<b>Applicant:</b>	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	
<b>Program area:</b>	River/Tributary Parkways	
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$2,000,000	
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$200,000	
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Planning	
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	Construction	
<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	11	17
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	24	28
III. Educational and Cultural	6	11
IV. Natural Resources	18 + 0	21 + 1 point for each listed species
Multiple Benefits Factor	3	4
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	62	77 + extra points for each listed species

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Dominguez Gap Wetlands Multiuse project proposes to modify two existing retention basins located on each side of the Los Angeles River to create 12 acres of functional wetland and riparian habitat, improve water quality and recharge, create passive recreational facilities, including trails, shade structures, and interpretive signage, along with providing educational features, and improve aesthetic values. Furthermore, this project provides direct access to the 51-mile Los Angeles River Parkway.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works is also developing a similar plan for the Deforest Park and Market Street Basin located immediately north of this project. The County is working with the City of Long Beach on both projects and the California Coastal Conservancy on the Deforest project. The Los Angeles River Master Plan and a Section 1135 Report by the Army Corps of Engineers identify the spreading grounds as a prime candidate for wetlands development and recreational enhancement.

Funding for construction is not recommended at this stage since the project is still in the planning phase. In fact, the Deforest Park project and this project may be combined to make more efficient use of funds that may be provided by the Coastal Conservancy.

RMC staff originally recommended this project for funding in the amount of \$100,000 at the June 19, 2003 Governing Board meeting. However, subsequent to that meeting increased funding of an additional \$100,000 has been recommended to close a funding gap identified by the county.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(14): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the California Native Habitat Endowment Fund, Inc. for Habitat Authority Community Outreach & Education Programs Development.

<b>Project:</b>	Habitat Authority Community Outreach & Education Programs Development	
<b>Applicant:</b>	California Native Habitat Endowment Fund, Inc.	
<b>Program area:</b>	Multiple	
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$92,000	
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$46,000	
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Planning/Implementation	
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	10	17
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	13	28
III. Educational and Cultural	6	11
IV. Natural Resources	0 + 0	21 + 1 point for each listed species
Multiple Benefits Factor	0	4
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	29	77 + extra points for each listed species

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is a joint powers agency set up to acquire, restore and maintain open space in the western Puente Hills as permanent protection of native habitat. Habitat Authority funds are committed to land acquisition, and operations and maintenance of land already owned or managed. The California Native Habitat Endowment Fund (Habitat Fund), the applicant, is seeking to develop and implement programs related to the preservation of the Puente Hills.

Discussions between RMC staff, Habitat Fund representatives and the Habitat Authority regarding the priority elements of the original project resulted in the identification of a comprehensive docent program as the top priority for the Habitat Authority. Habitat Fund representatives submitted a revised scope of work that includes the development of a training manual, materials for a docent program, and educational handouts based on docent presentations for the open space watershed lands owned or managed by the Habitat Authority. Habitat Fund representatives will solicit volunteers and develop a method of cataloging



volunteers. The docent training manual will include safety procedures, educational talking points, and educational activities for student audiences.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the California Native Habitat Endowment Fund, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$46,000 for the Habitat Authority Community Outreach & Education Program.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(C)(15) : Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation for Los Alamitos Native Garden Restoration.

<b>Project:</b>	Los Alamitos Native Garden Restoration	
<b>Applicant:</b>	Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation	
<b>Program area:</b>	Urban Core Lands	
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$80,000	
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$40,000	
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Construction of Pathways, interpretive signage, planting of natives, professional services fees	
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>	Artifacts preservation, pruning, esthetic features, irrigation and electrical	
<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	10	17
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	9	28
III. Educational and Cultural	10	11
IV. Natural Resources	2 + 0	21 + 1 point for each listed species
Multiple Benefits Factor	0	4
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	31	77 + extra points for each listed species

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Native Garden Restoration Project implements the recommendations of a comprehensive Master Plan for the site and specifically a Landscape Restoration Plan. Completion of the project includes the planting of natives; upgrading irrigation, drainage and electrical systems; renovating pathways and providing ADA access; pruning of specimen and perimeter trees and shrubs; rehabilitating artifacts; and producing interpretive signs.

The project improves a public open space resource, promotes stewardship of landscape through interpretive opportunities, encourages sustainable growth, and is a significant historic resource to the watershed.

During the initial project evaluation, staff identified improvements to the site that are not preferred project elements. Therefore, prior to proposing a funding recommendation staff met with Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation Executive Director, Pamela Seager, to discuss which elements of the project would be eligible for funding. Planting of natives, the construction of

pathways, interpretive signage, and professional services related to design and planning for the native plantings and grading were identified as eligible costs.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 for the Los Alamitos Native Garden Restoration.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(D): Consideration of resolutions: 1) recommending that the Mountains, Recreation and Conservation Authority authorize a grant to the City of Paramount for the Ralph C. Dills Riverfront Park project from Los Angeles County Open Space District Proposition A excess funds and 2) recommending an amendment to the Proposition 13 supplemental grant agreement between the RMC and the City of Paramount and recommending a request to amend the Proposition 13 grant agreement between the RMC and the Resources Agency

**BACKGROUND:**

The Resources Agency (Agency) has informed the RMC that they cannot reimburse several items related to the acquisition of 6503 Somerset Boulevard (Stotmore Property), one of five properties on the approved acquisition list for the Ralph C. Dills Park project. The purchase of real property (land, improvements and fixtures) and transaction expenses are considered eligible reimbursements by the Agency. However, the purchase of furniture and equipment and the payment of goodwill are considered ineligible reimbursements. The latter items represent approximately \$512,000 of the \$756,000 expected to be claimed for reimbursement.

The RMC recognizes that the Ralph C. Dills Riverfront Park project is a unique project that will contribute to the increasing demand for open space and help to complete the RMC's goal of a "greener" Los Angeles River. The RMC has recommended to the City of Paramount that funding be pursued through available Los Angeles County Open Space District Proposition A excess funds for the reimbursement of expenses related to the Stotmore property acquisition.

Supervisor Knabe's staff has been advised of the project and has been contacted regarding the availability of funding. RMC staff is awaiting the Supervisor's recommendation for moving forward with a proposal. However, since the Ralph C. Dills Park project is highly beneficial to the surrounding communities and has been recognized as a project that can successfully demonstrate the potential of reclaiming urban areas for use as open space, we believe that the project is a strong contender for receiving Los Angeles County Open Space District Proposition A excess funds.

On September 5, 2003, the RMC received a request from the City to amend the supplemental grant agreement to reflect the deletion of the Stotmore property in preparation for pursuing alternate funding (See Exhibit A). In addition, the City requested the addition of properties located at 6442 San Luis Street and 6437 San Luis Street to the approved acquisition list, thereby increasing the number of acquisitions to six. Attached is an aerial map (Exhibit B) indicating the amended strategy.

In addition, the City has requested an amendment to the supplemental grant that would expand the scope of work to include the demolition of the acquired properties (Exhibit C). The City has expressed concern that the properties will be a public hazard or nuisance if action is not taken to level the properties.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board:

- 1) Adopt a resolution recommending that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors consider the City of Paramount's Ralph C. Dills Park Project for Los Angeles County Open Space District Proposition A excess funds for reimbursement of expenses associated with the Stotmore property.
- 2) Authorize the above-mentioned amendments to the supplemental grant agreement (RMC-002-02) between the RMC and the City of Paramount and authorize a request to the Resources Agency to amend grant agreement (10615005-00). The amendments should include the addition of the properties located at 6442 San Luis Street and 6437 San Luis Street, the deletion of the property at 6503 Somerset Boulevard from the approved acquisition list, and the inclusion of demolition to the scope of work.

**EXHIBIT A**



The City  
Community Services and Recreation  
(562) 220-2121

GENE DANIELS  
Mayor

MANUEL E. GUILLEN  
Vice Mayor

DARYL HOFMEYER  
Councilmember

PEGGY LEMONS  
Councilmember

DIANE J. MARTINEZ  
Councilmember

September 5, 2003

Belinda Faustinos Executive Officer  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
900 S. Fremont Ave.  
Alhambra, CA 91802

Dear Belinda:

RE: Dills Park Expansion – Amendment to Supplemental Grant Agreement

We would like to request an additional change to our supplemental grant agreement. We would like to delete the commercial property located at 6503 Somerset Blvd. and replace it with two residential properties located at 6442 San Luis St. and 6437 San Luis St. The property at 6503 Somerset Blvd. appears now to be better suited for L.A. County Proposition A funding. The funds allocated to this acquisition can now be reallocated to the acquisitions of 6442 San Luis St. and 6437 San Luis St. within the designated expansion area.

Please let me know if the amendment is possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (562) 220-2138.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT

David M. Johnson  
Assistant Recreation Director

16400 Colorado Avenue • Paramount, CA 90723-5012 • Ph: 562.220-2000 • Fax, 562-630-6731  
[www.paramountcity.com](http://www.paramountcity.com)

## EXHIBIT B





The City of  
Community Services and Recreation  
(562) 220-2121

## EXHIBIT C

### Item 7(D)

GENE DANIELS  
Mayor

MANUEL E. GUILLEN  
Vice Mayor

DARYL HOFMEYER  
Councilmember

PEGGY LEMONS  
Councilmember

DIANE J. MARTINEZ  
Councilmember

September 4, 2003

Belinda Faustinos Executive Officer  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
900 S. Fremont Ave.  
Alhambra, CA 91802

Dear Belinda:

RE: Dills Park Expansion – Amendment to Proposition 13 Funding Agreement

The City's Dills Park Expansion project consists of purchasing properties in the designated expansion area adjacent to the park and demolishing the properties so they can ultimately be developed as new park/open space. Apparently, the costs associated with demolishing the properties is not currently considered an acquisition cost but a development cost. We had assumed that demolishing the property was an integral part of the acquisition process prior to the overall development of the targeted area.

It was and continues to be necessary to quickly demolish the properties to avoid having the properties become a public safety concern. Given the length of time it is taking to complete the acquisitions in the project area, it would have been especially dangerous to leave these properties vacant and boarded up.

To provide for Proposition 13 funded support of the property demolitions, we are requesting that our agreement be amended to include asbestos testing, asbestos abatement, and building demolition as allowable costs associated with our expansion project.

Please let me know if we are able to add demolition costs to our Proposition 13 Funding Agreement. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (562) 220-2138.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT

David M. Johnson  
Assistant Recreation Director

16400 Colorado Avenue • Paramount, CA 90723-5012 • Ph: 562.220-2000 • Fax, 562-630-6731  
[www.paramountcity.com](http://www.paramountcity.com)



**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(E): Consideration of a resolution authorizing a grant to Friends of Pio Pico for improvements to Pio Pico State Historic Park

**BACKGROUND:**

Pio Pico played a significant role in the history of the San Gabriel River. Pio de Jesus Pico is one of California's most remarkable historical figures. Born at the San Gabriel Mission on May 5, 1801, he helped shape the City of Los Angeles and the State of California and created a legacy as the last governor of Mexican California. After California became a State of the Union in 1849, Pio Pico adapted to the new political circumstances and prospered as a rancher, businessman and landowner. Pio Pico built the adobe mansion at "El Ranchito", on his ranch now known as Pio Pico State Historic Park in the City of Whittier. Pio Pico State Historic Park is assisted by Friends of Pio Pico, a local non-profit organization that works with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) to provide local citizens educational and cultural activities such as interpretive histories, displays, exhibits, arts and crafts, historical lectures and presentations.

On September 8, 2003, the RMC received a request for consideration of funds from the Friends of Pio Pico for the development and production of native plant and habitat educational materials (Exhibit A). The purpose of this project is to create educational materials that will inform visitors of the existing California native gardens at Pio Pico State Historic Park. State Parks is currently transplanting non-native vegetation and replacing it with native plant species in preparation for the re-opening of Pio Pico State Historic Park following three years of renovations. A brochure will serve as a self-guided tour through the native plant species and new interpretive signs will be placed throughout the native gardens. The brochure will feature historical information, native garden and habitat education. The project will complement environmental education curriculum already mandatory through the State of California's Board of Education and can also serve as a demonstration of the use of native plants in residences.

It is anticipated that costs associated with this project will be as follows:

1. Consultant to develop curriculum	\$ 2,000
2. Printing Costs	\$ 1,000
3. Brochure	\$ 1,000
4. Interpretive Signs	\$ <u>1,000</u>
Grand Total	\$ 5,000

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to Friends of Pio Pico in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for improvements to Pio Pico State Historic Park.

**EXHIBIT A**



**FRIENDS OF PIO PICO, INC.**  
Supporting Cultural and Educational Programs at Pio Pico State Historic Park  
*"Bringing El Ranchito Back to Life"*

September 5, 2003



**Friends of Pio Pico, Inc.**

**Executive Board**

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Alex M. Moisa

*Vice-President/Treasurer*

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*Secretary*

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*Historian*

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Kyle Koestner, Whittier Historical Society

Claudio Martinez, J.D.

Scott Neal, Whittier Conservancy

Lilyan Noal, Whittier Conservancy

Belinda Faustinos  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
900 S. Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91802

Dear Ms. Faustinos:

The Friends of Pio Pico, Inc is a local non-profit organization working with the California State Park System and is a culmination of a long term community effort to provide local citizens educational and cultural activities such as Interpretive histories, displays, exhibits, arts and crafts, historical lectures and presentations. The mission of the Friends of Pio Pico is to work with the State of California as a cooperative association in ensuring quality cultural and educational programs and activities for public benefit use for all visitors to the Pio Pico State Historic Park.

As you may know, Pio Pico played a significant role in the history of the San Gabriel River. Pio de Jesus Pico was one of California's most remarkable historical figures. Born at the San Gabriel Mission on May 5, 1801, he helped shape the City of Los Angeles and the State of California and created a legacy as the last governor of "Alta" California. After California became a State of the Union in 1849, Pio Pico adapted to the new political circumstances and prospered as a rancher, businessman and landowner. Pio Pico built the adobe mansion at "El Ranchito," on his 8,891 ranch which is now located in the City of Whittier. The adobe mansion is surrounded by beautiful gardens with rare flowering plants. The garden also features fruit trees, grapes and a kitchen garden. Park landscaping is currently being changed to more closely resemble the original character of the Pico ranch. Orange trees, gardens and fields of crops have been planted at the park. The California Department of Parks and Recreation is currently transplanting non-native vegetation and replacing it with native plant species. Visitors to the Pio Pico State Park will be able to see and enjoy native plant species upon the opening of the Park in late September 2003.

We request assistance from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) to implement an important project that will enhance visitor experience at Pio Pico State Historic Park. The purpose of this project is to create educational materials that will inform visitors of the various plant species and existing California native gardens at the Pio Pico State

Historic Park. As part of the project new interpretive signs will be placed throughout the native gardens identifying the various native plants. A brochure and curriculum will be developed that will assist visitors and elementary youth through the various school field trips. The brochure will serve as a self-guided tour through the various native plant species and gardens. It will feature historical information, native garden and wildlife education. The project would be coordinated with local schools and allow youth to learn of the historical significance of Pio Pico, the San Gabriel River and the cultural history of typical native plants found in Coastal Sage Scrub Habitat. Birds and other animals have begun to inhabit the newly restored landscaping and gardens. Visitors will have the opportunity to view the native vegetation up close through a walkway created through the gardens and along the West Side of the Pio Pico State Historic Park and embankment. We hope that the brochures and interpretive signs will compliment the walking tour of the native vegetation and persuade visitors to use drought tolerant native vegetation in their own gardens.

The Friends of Pio Pico will work with the California State Park System and the local school districts in the development of curriculum that will be incorporated into the 4th grade student level. A consultant will be hired that will supply the expertise, and knowledge needed to create a curriculum.

A brochure will be created with the expertise of horticulture specialists in the development of the brochure. The services of both the curriculum developer and horticulture specialist will be required for only a brief period of time. The horticulture specialist will be donated services from the from the California University's Extension 4-H Program.

We anticipate that costs associated with this project will be as follows:

1. Consultant to develop curriculum	\$2,000
2. Printing Costs	1,000
3. Brochure	1,000
4. Interpretive Signs	1,000
Grand Total	\$5,000

Your assistance with this project is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with the RMC in the future.

Sincerely,



Barbara Baiz  
President

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(F): Consideration of resolution recommending that the Watershed Conservation Authority adopt a drug-free awareness program for the workplace in compliance with State contracting requirements

### **BACKGROUND**

In preparation of future state contracting opportunities with the WCA, RMC staff recommends that the WCA establish a Drug-Free Awareness Program as required by Government Code Section 8355(b), in compliance with State contracting requirements. The Drug-Free Awareness Program should inform employees about all of the following:

- a. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace,
- b. The organizations policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace,
- c. Any available consulting, rehabilitation and employee assistance programs, and
- d. Penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations.

In addition, a statement notifying employees that unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited and specifying actions to be taken against employees for violations, as required by Government Code Section 8355(a).

As required by Government Code Section 8355(c), every employee who works on the proposed contract or grant:

- a. Will receive a copy of the company's drug-free workplace policy statement, and
- b. Will agree to abide by the terms of the company's statement as a condition of employment on the contract or grant.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the RMC Governing Board recommend that the Watershed Conservation Authority adopt a drug-free awareness program for the workplace in compliance with State requirements.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(G): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District for the San Gabriel River environmental graphic design service program

**BACKGROUND**

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) through the Watershed Division's San Gabriel River Section, has requested a grant to develop a signage and environmental graphic plan for the San Gabriel River. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion on September 7, 1999, to develop the San Gabriel River Master Plan (SGRMP). The planning effort for the SGRMP has been in progress for the past two years and will be a tool to establish the River as an integral part of the community, to enhance the community's quality of life by providing protection, benefit, and enjoyment to the public.

The objective of the SGRMP is to advocate and identify potential enhancements of the River's resources. However, the scope of work and budget does not include the development of a signage and environmental graphic plan to address the need for trail access and signage improvements.

The LACFCD has requested a grant from the RMC to develop a signage and environmental graphic plan. This plan would be an addition to the existing contract between the LACFCD and Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc. (MIG) for the development of the SGRMP (See Exhibit A).

The complete signage and environmental graphic plan for the river would include the following components:

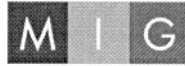
- Entry signs that provide easily recognized points of access and help create gateways that reconnect the river with residential areas and commercial districts;
- Mile markers which give periodic reference points for distance traveled, graphically remind visitors of a unified system of significant range, and suggest the unexplored length;
- Project signs reminding visitors that there are a number of individual projects being completed under the master plan and build positive support for the projects and the sponsoring agencies;
- Wayfinding signs naming places and directing visitors to specific areas or zones, indicate distances and a course for reaching specific areas or attractions; and

- Interpretive signs highlighting important facts, cultural, historic, natural and engineering features along the river.

RMC considers this addition to the SGRMP a critical element that should be addressed in order to encourage recreational activities along the river, provide safe and well-defined access points and connection, and promote nearby watershed projects.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District in an amount not to exceed \$17,500 for the San Gabriel River environmental graphic design service program.

**EXHIBIT A**

August 19, 2003

TO: Marty Moreno

FROM: Daniel Iacofano

RE: Proposal: San Gabriel River  
Signage Plan and Environmental Graphic Design Services

MIG is pleased to present a proposal to provide a signage plan and environmental graphic design services for signage along the San Gabriel River.

The communities along the San Gabriel River are embarked on a plan to enhance open space and habitat and expand recreational opportunities. An improved trail system is a major river enhancement project that will connect the communities with the river and enhance the "sense of place" for citizens. A signage system along the trail is a critical element in the project: it will orient, educate, and interpret the environment for users.

The signage system along the river must address the disparate purposes of highlighting the river's sometimes & agile ecosystems, while encouraging responsible use. The approach must offer a celebration of the renewal of the river, acknowledge the varied and multi-cultural communities through which it passes, and respect its natural setting.

A complete signage and environmental graphic plan for the river will include the following components:

- **Entry signs** provide easily recognized points of access and help create gateways that reconnect the river with residential areas and commercial districts.
- **Mile markers** give periodic reference points for distance traveled, graphically remind visitors of a unified system of significant range, and suggest the unexplored length.
- **Project signs** remind visitors that there are a number of individual projects being completed under the master plan and build positive support for the projects and the sponsoring agencies.
- **Wayfinding signs** name places and direct visitors to specific areas or zones,

indicate distances and a course for reaching specific areas or attractions.

- **Interpretive signs** highlight important facts, feats, names and dates of cultural, historic, natural and engineering features along the river.

This complete signage program can be developed in phases, beginning with the mile marker signs. The work scope and estimated budget below will achieve the mileage marker system.

**Task 1: Project Initiation and Conceptual Design.**

MIG will survey the geographical area with San Gabriel River Master Plan staff, discuss the work-to-date, explore possible personalities and characteristics of the signage system, as well as specific design elements. MIG will coordinate with other environmental graphics programs that have a close connection with the San Gabriel River, such as the Los Angeles River signage system.

Following the project initiation meeting MIG will develop themes for the signage program, including development of a **logo or icon**. MIG will design two original concepts, applied to the mile marker sign. The concepts will include visual simulations, showing the signs in situ. A preferred direction will be chosen following the presentation.

Icons and graphic conventions developed for the mile marker system will be applicable to the other signage elements to be developed in subsequent phases.

Deliverables: Two original design concepts for the mile marker signs or monument; creative brief describing objectives, audiences, benefits, mandatory requirements and strategies for developing the signage system.

Estimated Cost: \$10,000

**Task 2: Design Development**

Based on client preferences for the concept design alternatives, MIG will develop the chosen concept, including refining the logo or icon, developing text, choosing the color palette, defining the size, shape, and materials. MIG will work with the fabricator to ensure value engineering and costs.

During this phase MIG will also develop a map showing the location for mile marker signs along the river trail system (from Azusa to Long Beach).

Deliverables: A refined design for the trail entry points with approved copy and images; mile marker location map.

Estimated Cost: \$7,500



**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(H): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant amendment to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for services related to Proposition 40 and 50 project implementation

### **BACKGROUND**

In October of 2002, the RMC authorized a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for similar purposes. The grant agreement provided for the continued services of five positions and the addition of a sixth position to provide scientific and biological support for analysis of proposed projects and preparation of the RMC's Habitat Plan.

A grant amendment is necessary for continued and anticipated professional services needed to implement the RMC's Workprogram. The amended grant will account for the continued service of a Technical Assistant III to manage the RMC website, which is integral to providing the community information regarding RMC programs and funding. Additional professional services are anticipated to be needed based on the variety and number of projects in the Workprogram. These additional professional services would be used for implementation of projects on a part-time basis therefore benefits are not included. Again, based on the variety and number of projects within the Workprogram the RMC cannot predict the type of professional services that will be needed, but requests to use up to a maximum amount of \$150,000 as needed for contracted services with MRCA for the remainder of the fiscal year. (See Exhibit A) The funding for the amended grant is from the administrative allotment from Proposition 40 and does not impact the amount available for capital projects.

Formed in 1985, the MRCA, is a joint-powers authority between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. The primary reason for recommending the MRCA as the grant recipient is that this agency provides a very competitive benefit package and therefore quality candidates can be hired to provide the required services.

RMC will continue to explore contract opportunities with other entities, however given the breadth of the projects to be administered under this Workprogram it is imperative that a contract amendment be approved for this grant in order to have the staffing capacity to compliment the projects authorized by the RMC Governing Board.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant amendment in the amount of \$150,000 to the MRCA for services related to Proposition 40 and 50 project implementation.

**EXHIBIT A**  
**MRCA GRANT BUDGET**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Hourly</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Total</b>
Division Chief III	33.15	\$ 68,952.00		
Environmental Scientist	25.49	\$ 53,019.20		
Project Analyst II	23.99	\$ 49,899.20		
Project Analyst I	18.11	\$ 37,668.80		
Board Secretary	20.45	\$ 42,536.00		
Info. Systems Tech.	15.47	\$ 32,177.60		
New Contract "On Call"	Various*		\$150,000	
Sub Total Personnel		\$284,252.80		
Benefits		\$ 71,063.20		
Misc. Hard Costs (Training, Supplies)		\$ 6,000.00		
Overhead @ 10%		\$ 36,131.60		
<b>Total Amount of Grant</b>		<b>\$397,447.60</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>	<b>\$ 547,447.60</b>

Types of "On Call" Services

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>
Office Assistant	9.99
Account Clerk II	11.99
Research Assistant	12.71
Project Analyst II	19.02
Real Estate Officer	19.02
Legal Assistant	19.02
GIS Project Manager I	19.02
Landscape Architect I	22.01
Staff Counsel I	27.70

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7(l): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to North East Trees for the South Gate Riparian Habitat Restoration Project

<b>Project:</b>	South Gate Riparian Habitat Restoration Project		
<b>Applicant:</b>	North East Trees		
<b>Program area:</b>	River/Tributary Parkways		
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$500,000		
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$500,000		
<b>Project elements recommended for funding:</b>	Creation of 12.5 acres seasonal riparian habitat		
<b>Project elements not recommended for funding:</b>			
<b>PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>			
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>	
I. Planning, Feasibility and Economics	9	17	
II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space	19	28	
III. Educational and Cultural	4	11	
IV. Natural Resources	14	21 + 1 point for each listed species	
Multiple Benefits Factor	1	4	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	47	77 + extra points for each listed species	

### **BACKGROUND:**

The South Gate Riparian Habitat Restoration Project site is in the cities of Lynwood and South Gate, near the convergence of the Interstate 105 Freeway, Interstate 710 Freeway, Imperial Highway, and the channelized Los Angeles River. Impacts to the area from these historic development projects have severely degraded the environment and quality of life from this park-poor area. This project will repair some of the damage done to the habitat of the area when the Los Angeles River was channelized by constructing a 12.5 acre functional seasonal wetland, bird habitat, and much needed accessible open park space (Exhibit A). The seasonal riparian wetland will also serve to filter stormwater runoff, improving water quality in the watershed. In addition to the 12.5 acre seasonal riparian habitat creation, this project will utilize interpretive signs scattered along short trails to be constructed on the site. The site will also provide visual enhancement to a local LARIO bike trail and access road.

The South Gate Riparian Habitat Restoration Project will be one link in a growing chain of active wetlands along the Los Angeles River as identified in the Los Angeles River Masterplan.

The project scored well in the urban, open space, and natural resource categories. It offers excellent potential for restoration of important riparian habitat that once was prevalent throughout the landscape, as well as much needed accessible open space to the local community and for trail users.

Staff considers a grant of \$500,000 will enable North East Trees, together with a \$1,500,000 contribution from the City of South Gate to complete the South Gate Riparian Habitat Restoration Project.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to North East Trees in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the South Gate Riparian Habitat Restoration Project.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 8: Consideration of resolution adopting the 2003-2004 RMC Workprogram and discussion of related fiscal planning

**BACKGROUND:**

The 2003-2004 RMC Workprogram (Workprogram) is a list of candidate acquisition, restoration, enhancement, development, planning, education and multi-use projects that will further the RMC's goals and objectives. This list of projects (Exhibit A) was developed from nominations made by cities and stakeholders as part of our Phase II Open Space Plan, Propositions 13, 12, and 40 grant applicant projects, San Gabriel River Master Plan project nominations and projects identified by RMC staff.

The "Workprogram" model has been used very successfully by many state agencies charged with land acquisition and development. In fact, many of the elements of this process were developed by the Coastal Conservancy for the Wetlands Recovery Project. The basic premise of this proposal is that once a project is placed on the Workprogram, RMC staff will work with project proponents to develop a work plan that is consistent with RMC priorities and if it is competitive and ready for implementation a recommendation for funding will be presented to the Board. It bears stressing that while projects on the list may be eligible for funding, inclusion on the Workprogram does not mean the project has been awarded a grant. In fact, some of the project elements as described in the workprogram i.e., skate parks, may be ineligible. In the future the Workprogram may be updated annually, however it is recommended and discussed in more detail later in this staff report that staff is recommending an "open" nomination period through the end of this fiscal year. By keeping the nominations open continuously this year (through June 30, 2004), staff believes that any project proponent, who for some reason has not been aware of our project nominations or competitive grant process, can be encouraged to submit a project for consideration.

**Attachments**

Exhibit A: Workprogram Sorted by City, Unincorporated Areas by District  
 Exhibit B: Workprogram Sorted by Project Name  
 Exhibit C: Maps Sorted by City, Unincorporated Areas by District  
 Exhibit D: Projects not included in the Workprogram

**Program Areas**

Projects on the Workprogram are divided into the three program areas adopted by the Board on January 10, 2003. The three categories are as follows:

- River/Tributary Parkways
- Mountains, Hills and Foothills
- Urban Core Lands

Many of the projects identified in the Workprogram will require further analysis by staff. These are projects which, in general concept, meet the RMC's goals and objectives, but require refinement of the project description and/or budget.

## Fiscal Planning

There are several factors that the RMC will take into consideration in implementing the Workprogram:

- ***Continuation of Previous Commitment*** – The RMC will give greater priority to projects that are a continuation of an effort in which the RMC has already invested. For instance, all else being equal, the RMC would give greater priority to implementation of a development project that the RMC helped plan than to a project that the RMC has not worked on before. In short, this is a policy to “finish what we start” in order to ensure that the initial investment of funds is not wasted.
- ***Project Timing*** – Some projects must be implemented during a specific window of time. For instance, some restoration projects can occur only after the breeding season, but before the rainy season. The RMC will take schedule issues into consideration in prioritizing staff resources to ensure that, to the extent possible, RMC funding is available when needed.
- ***Geographic Distribution*** – The RMC will seek to distribute its resources equitably throughout its territory. Thus, if substantial funding is used to complete a large acquisition or restoration project in one area, other projects in this same area may receive lower priority for funding. The RMC will continue to work with each of the COG’s and OC Division to assist with this element of our efforts.
- ***Balance Short-term and Long-term Gains*** – The amount of staff time required to implement a project can vary dramatically based on project complexity and the experience of the local partner. Implementing simpler projects or working with experienced local partners can result in more immediate benefits. However, in order to achieve its long-term vision for the region, the RMC must also invest funding and staff resources into solving complex issues in the region and building the capacity of local partners to take on multi-objective projects. The RMC will balance short- and long-term gains in allocating its resources.

## Future Considerations

It is anticipated that for the next several years additional bond acts may not be as successful as the last four years. In response to this possible changing financial situation, the RMC should concentrate on implementing the projects it has begun. Key outcomes of this policy could include:

- ***Competitive Grant Cycle Workprogram Update.*** Given the recommended strategy of focusing on implementation of projects already underway, it does not make sense for the RMC to hold a major competitive grant program every year. Our experience during last year’s cycle showed that smaller cities had great project ideas; but for various reasons were not able to submit competitive grant applications. However, given the relative newness of the agency we want to encourage cities and stakeholders to continue to bring good projects to our attention. Thus, while staff recommends that the RMC not hold a competitive proposal round next year, we will encourage project proposals on an ongoing basis, but there would not be a wide-scale effort to solicit new projects. Proposals received would be reviewed by staff and any recommended additions would be forwarded to the Governing Board for approval. The one major caveat to this

perspective is the extent to which any of our priorities will be influenced by completion of RMC's subsequent plans, i.e., Habitat Plan, Trail and Recreational Access Plan.

- ***Project development/technical assistance.*** Over the past two years, developing new projects for RMC funding has been a high priority. Given the current financial situation, the RMC's project development efforts must be focused on grant administration and contract management by providing project development and technical assistance. In addition, the RMC should work with local partners to identify non-State sources of project funding.
- ***Detailed planning tied to likelihood of implementation.*** Detailed design plans, permitting, and environmental review all tend to be fairly time-sensitive. Unlike conceptual plans, detailed plans generally can not be put on the shelf for several years until money becomes available to proceed. Therefore, when providing funds for the detailed planning phase of a project, the RMC should begin considering the likelihood that implementation funding will be available in the near-term. If funding will not be available, the RMC should not be funding detailed planning. Further, it is recommended that when the RMC authorizes a planning grant that an essential element of the design is a Phase I implementation strategy which can be incorporated into RMC's projected three year funding cycle.
- The RMC may elect to add projects to the Workprogram that require significant revision or refinement of the project description and/or budget. For these projects the RMC will provide the project proponent with a list of issues that need to be addressed and may provide assistance, such as technical review and comment. However, those projects will be the lowest priority in allocated RMC staff time.

#### **Projects Not Included in Workprogram**

Eighteen projects were not included in the Workprogram because they were either not consistent with RMC goals and objectives for multi-purpose projects or they were outside of RMC's territory (See Exhibit D).

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the RMC Governing Board adopt the 2003-2004 RMC Workprogram to identify, develop, and manage projects that are within the scope of the RMC's programs and Open Space Plan.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 9(A): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the City of Bellflower for the Riverview Park planning project

**BACKGROUND:**

This project will prepare a plan for the development of a 15.5-acre regional, low impact recreation area adjacent to the San Gabriel River. Proposed improvements include a paved bikeway, landscaping, park benches, lighting, and informational signing. The project area is located within the Edison (11.4 acres) and Los Angeles County Flood Control District (3.9 acres) right-of-way between Somerset Boulevard and Alondra Boulevard. The City is negotiating with the current landowners for use of the site for park purposes.

The project meets RMC goals of expanding low impact recreational opportunities, connecting open space, and developing a multi-objective planning project. It sets forth a connection to the San Gabriel River bikeway via an existing pathway currently linking the regional bikeway to Alondra Boulevard.

The City of Bellflower applied to the Resources Agency for Proposition 12 funds for this project. If the City receives Proposition 12 funds, staff will consider an alternate project in the vicinity.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of Bellflower in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the Riverview Park planning project.









**CITY OF  
BELLFLOWER**

16600 Civic Center Drive  
Bellflower, California 90706-5494  
(562) 804-1424 ♦ FAX: (562) 925-8660  
<http://www.bellflower.org>

September 5, 2003

Enrique Arroyo,  
Deputy Executive Director  
San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
900 South Fremont Avenue, Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 1460  
Alhambra, CA 91802

**RE: Letter of Interest for a Riverfront Open Space Planning Study in the  
City of Bellflower, California**

Dear Mr. Arroyo:

Pursuant to our meeting on September 5, 2003, please consider this correspondence as a letter of interest by the City of Bellflower in the preparation of a planning study regarding open space opportunities along the westerly side of the San Gabriel River. Roughly, the approximate area for the study would be the westerly bank of the San Gabriel River extending from State Route 91 (SR-91), northerly to approximately Rosecrans Avenue.

If you would like to discuss this matter in greater detail, including how the City of Bellflower and the San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy could work together in identifying riverfront open space opportunities, please call me at (562) 804-1424, ext. 2224.

Sincerely,



Brian K. Lee,  
Director of Community Development

Cc: Michael J. Egan, City Administrator  
Lee Mingle, Assistant City Administrator

**SCOTT A. LARSEN**  
Mayor

**DOROTHY R. KING**  
Mayor Pro Tem

**RANDY BOMGAARS**  
Council Member

**JOHN PRATT**  
Council Member

**RAY SMITH**  
Council Member

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 9(B): Consideration of a resolution authorizing a grant to the City of Seal Beach for the development of the San Gabriel River Trail, Bikeway and Staging Area Improvement Project North and South

**BACKGROUND:**

This project was originally submitted as two separate proposals, north and south trail improvements. The two projects have subsequently been combined into one larger project to allow for more cohesive planning along the trail within Seal Beach.

The north portion of the trail enhancement consists of designing and constructing the rehabilitation of the existing San Gabriel River Trail, signage, and fencing at the trail from Marina Dr. to PCH (Exhibit A). Educational kiosks, new picnic and bicycle storage areas and new native vegetation are also a component of this project.

The south portion of the trail enhancement is where the trail ends at the beach, and consists of designing and constructing the rehabilitation of the existing San Gabriel River Trail, parking lot, bathroom, signage and fencing at the trail from Marina Dr. to the First Street parking lot (Exhibit B). The new amenities include educational kiosks, new picnic and bicycle storage areas, and new native vegetation.

RMC funding will help improve the San Gabriel River Trail as it makes its way to the beach, and allow for improved access and passive recreational activities. This project scored strongly in the Urban, Recreational, and Open Space Factors of our Project Evaluation Criteria. There is an opportunity to include some native vegetation along the trail, and remove non-native plant species. The trail improvement project will enhance the last reach before the river trail ends at the beach. Currently at the River's End staging area there is a restaurant, restrooms and a parking lot. The plan to improve the River's End staging area includes additional signage, restrooms, and a redesign of the parking lot to accommodate a bicycle storage area and habitat restoration. The redesign on the River's End parking lot could also include the restoration of a sand dune located adjacent to the existing lot.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a planning and Phase I implementation grant to the City of Seal Beach in an amount not to exceed \$150,00 for the Seal Beach River Trail Enhancement Project North and South and Staging Area.

EXHIBIT A

# San Gabriel River Trail North

Marina Dr. To Pacific Coast Hwy.

City of Seal Beach

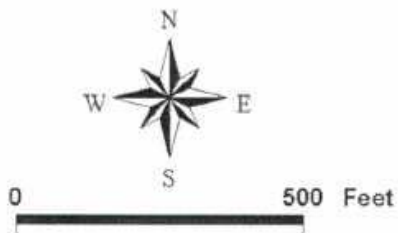
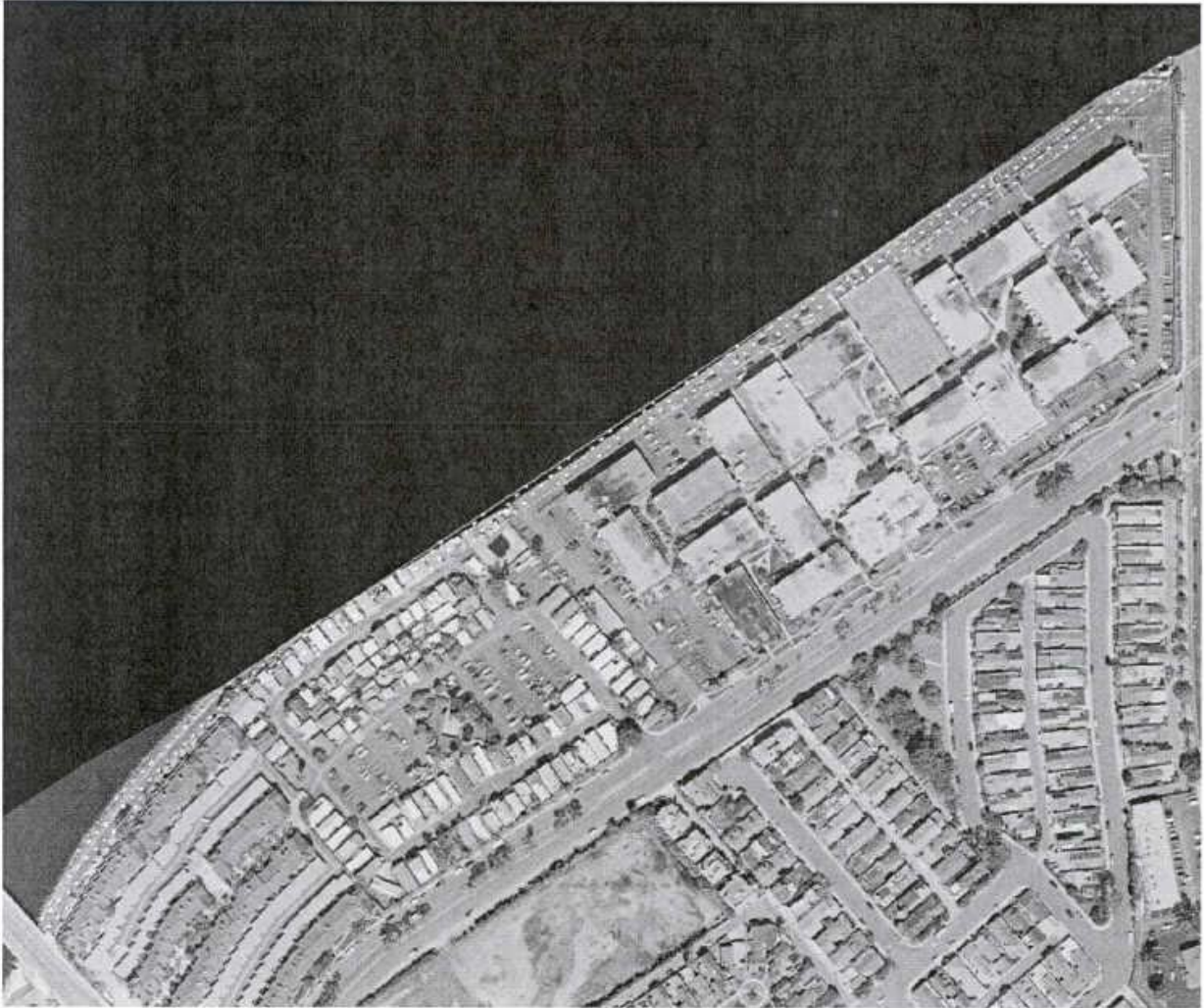
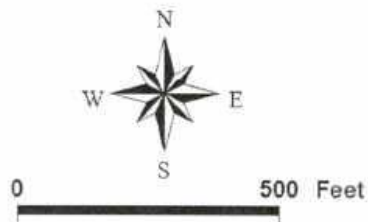


EXHIBIT B

# San Gabriel River Trail South

First St. Parking Lot To Marina Dr.

City of Seal Beach





**TO: RMC Governing Board**

**FROM: Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer**

**SUBJECT: Item 9(C): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority for the Development of the RMC Trail and Recreational Opportunities program**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Center for Sustainable Cities was established in 1998, by a group of USC faculty from engineering, the natural and social sciences, urban planning, and environmental health sciences (See Exhibit A). This multidisciplinary group received a grant from the National Science Foundation's Integrated Graduate Research Education and Training (IGERT) Program, to fund USC doctoral students as well as undergraduates from colleges and universities across the country, interested in learning about the challenges of making cities more sustainable. These educational efforts are based on the conviction that resolution of environmental problems demands contributions from professionals trained in a variety of knowledge fields, holding diverse backgrounds, political perspectives, and environmental philosophies, who must be able to work productively with multiple stakeholder groups.

Over the past two years, the Center has conducted intensive research on parks, open space, and nature's services in the region. The National Park Service asked the Center to conduct a survey of the activities, attitudes, and social backgrounds of visitors in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in order to better manage the park and plan for expansion. Based on the Center's research, the National Park Service has been provided policy-oriented recommendations for trail and recreational opportunities management. These recommendations address:

- user demographics
- recreational activities
- user knowledge of flora and fauna
- trail user interactions
- visitor travel behavior
- barriers to access

RMC staff recommend that the WCA subcontract with the USC Sustainable Cities Program for the development of a comprehensive plan for sustainable open space and urban parks, recreational and trail opportunities within the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River watersheds.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the development of the RMC Trail and Recreational Opportunities Plan and that the WCA subcontract this work with the USC Sustainable Cities Program.

## EXHIBIT A






**CENTER LEADERSHIP AND ADVISORY BOARD**

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**Mitchell Menzer**, Partner, O'Melveny & Myers LLP

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**CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES**  
University of Southern California  
3620 S. Vermont Avenue  
Kaprielian Hall 413  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0255  
213.821.1325 vns / 213.740.0056 fax  
[www.usc.edu/dept/geography/ESPE](http://www.usc.edu/dept/geography/ESPE)

**OUR MISSION**

*The Center for Sustainable Cities engages in multidisciplinary research and education on the environmental, social and economic sustainability challenges facing metropolitan regions, and contributes to the development of public policy that improves the natural and human environment of cities.*



**USC Center for Sustainable Cities**





#### CENTER PROGRAMS

**Sustainability science education.** For both graduate and undergraduate students from a broad array of fields including civil, environmental, chemical, and industrial engineering, biological and earth sciences, economics, geography, sociology, anthropology, political science, public policy and urban planning.

**Multidisciplinary research** in local areas of sustainability science, involving engineers, natural and social scientists, policy and planning experts, designed to enable cities to resolve complex environmental problems.

**Training programs and policy outreach** efforts to bring results of Center research and practical insights of graduate students and faculty directly to those who can utilize them - to encourage more sustainable private or corporate behavior, and to create or restructure public policies and programs.



#### EDUCATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE URBAN FUTURE

The Center's primary educational endeavor is the Sustainable Cities Doctoral Certificate Program. The Certificate Program is completed both by those students funded through the Center's National Science Foundation-funded EERT Integrated Graduate Education, Research and Training Program and others who are interested. The Certificate Program prepares doctoral students to confront, analyze and resolve the challenges posed by problems of urban sustainability, allowing them to transcend disciplinary boundaries and acquire a profound understanding of how collaborative, interdisciplinary, policy-relevant research on major environmental problems should be conducted.

In addition to the Certificate Program, the Center mounts international summer programs for fellowship students. The La Frontera Program, conducted in association with El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLFEN) focused on the sustainability problems facing the California-Mexico border zone. A program in France linked students to top Parisian university scientists and their research efforts. A third international program, in East Asia, will be mounted in 2003.

The Center also offers a Summer Undergraduate Fellows Program. This small, select, and intensive program brings students from around the country to USC for the summer, to work directly with faculty, post-doctoral associates, and graduate students on Center research projects. This program - attracting students from Princeton, Stanford, Cornell, Columbia, Harvard, the UC campuses, and USC - provides participants with hands-on sustainability science research experience.

#### RESEARCH IN SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE

The Center defines 'sustainability science' broadly to not only include natural scientists and engineers, but also policy experts, the work of social scientists, and urban planners and designers. We foster sustainability science research in six major areas. All areas involve faculty and graduate students from several disciplines. These areas are:

**Sustainability & Metropolitan Growth:** dynamics of urban sprawl; growth management policies; regionalism and smart growth.

**Biofiltration for Air Pollution Control:** biofilter design; regulatory acceptance of biofilter use; diffusion and adoption of biofilter technology by small business.

**Industrial Ecology:** regional industrial structure, energy use, and pollution; eco-industrial development and clusters.

**Urban Ecological Restoration & Conservation:** phyto remediation techniques; restoration and urban ecosystem services, sprawl and wildlife.

**Sustainable Open Space and Urban Parks:** distribution of parks and open space; open space governance and funding; parks, open space and provision of nature's services.

**Environmental Activism:** efficacy of grassroots environmental justice networks; alternative organizing models; activism around urban parks and large-scale infrastructure investments.

The Center works collaboratively on research efforts with other USC centers, including the GIS Research Lab, Southern California Studies Center, Wrigley Institute of Environmental Studies, and the Lusk Center for Real Estate. In addition, the Center has established cooperative relationships with highly regarded nonprofit organizations interested in collaborative research, as a means to convey our academic expertise to real world settings.



#### TRAINING AND POLICY OUTREACH

The Center designs and offers specialized training workshops for interested client organizations. For example, Center faculty and doctoral students developed a series of workshops on sustainability and energy conservation, for the Southern California Gas Company, funded by the California State Public Utilities Commission. The Center was also invited by the City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office to mount an intensive workshop for the City's General Managers and Division Managers. And in key policy areas, the Center has invested significant efforts in communicating research results to the media, public policymakers, and community-based organizations.

Meanwhile, scientists working in each programmatic research area are linked to policy makers and practitioners in southern California and beyond. For example, recent research in environmental justice and the distribution of parks and open space in the City of Los Angeles was disseminated to local and state policymakers, as well as community based organizations, and Center researchers were invited to testify before the City's commission charged with the distribution of local park bond funding, and provide policy guidance and advice.

#### CENTER SUPPORT

Funders of Center activities have included the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Environmental Health Science, John Randolph and Dora Haynes Foundation, Liberty Hill Foundation, Southern California Gas Company, Western National Parks Association, City of Los Angeles Department of Sanitation, City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, US Sea Grant Program, USC Southern California Studies Center, USC Lusk Center, and the USC President's Urban Initiative Fund. In addition, Center programs are supported by the USC School of Engineering and the Department of Geography in USC's College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences.



**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 9(D): Consideration of a resolution authorizing a grant to the City of Paramount for the Dills Park Riverfront Project.

**BACKGROUND:**

A supplemental grant agreement for \$1,700,000 dollars was executed between the RMC and the City of Paramount in October 2001. Approximately 1.82 acres have been acquired towards the expansion of the park over the past two years using funding from the RMC, Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP), Mountains, Recreation and Conservation Authority, and Coastal Conservancy. Following the acquisition of an additional 4 remaining properties, the total expansion will be approximately 2.38 acres. Attached is an aerial map (See Exhibit A) indicating the acquisition strategy.

On September 5, 2003, the RMC received a request from the City of Paramount for assistance with the development of a park master plan. After meeting with City staff, it was determined that a master plan should be developed for the newly acquired properties that will be used for passive recreation and open space. This master plan is necessary to develop a vision for the passive recreational elements of the park and how those elements will best compliment the Los Angeles River, located to the west. Development of the master plan would consist of the following:

- A site analysis that reviews information about the site including topographic and survey documents, previous conceptual plans and a recommended native plant species list. The assessment will include site visits noting opportunities and constraints such as utilities, grading, and opportunities for use of pervious and recycled materials. In addition, community meetings will be held to provide an opportunity for the community to provide input on the planning process.
- A preliminary conceptual design phase defining the requirements and standards to be utilized in the design, and reviewing alternatives to agree upon a preferred design direction.
- A final design development phase establishing the preferred option including defining the character and essentials of the project and the preparation of the site improvement plan.

The RMC recognizes that the Dills Park Riverfront Project is a unique project that will contribute to the increasing demand for open space and help to complete the RMC's goal of a "greener" Los Angeles River. The project is highly beneficial to the surrounding communities and has been recognized as a project that can successfully demonstrate the potential of reclaiming urban areas for use as open space and passive recreation. The development of this master plan was strongly recommended to the City prior to pursuing additional funds for acquisition of additional properties. City staff has committed to providing or pursue the remaining amount

needed to provide active recreation planning. The reminder of the needed funding would be limited solely to the open space and passive recreation elements of the plan.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of Paramount in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the development of a Master Plan for the Dills Park Riverfront Project.

**EXHIBIT A**



The City of  
Community Services and Recreation  
(562) 220-2121

GENE DANIELS  
Mayor

MANUEL E. GUILLEN  
Vice Mayor

DARYL HOFMEYER  
Councilmember

PEGGY LEMONS  
Councilmember

DIANE J. MARTINEZ  
Councilmember

September 5, 2003

Belinda Faustinos  
Executive Officer  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
900 S. Fremont Ave.  
Alhambra, CA 91802

Dear Belinda:

RE: Dills Park Expansion -Request for Master Plan Funding

The City's Dills Park Expansion project is an enormously positive undertaking in the City's poorest and most densely populated neighborhood. Dills Park is a thin strip of passive parkland that runs along the Los Angeles River that provides little buffer for the residential properties that abut the park. The expansion project seeks to widen this area to increase the density of green space for both the adjacent neighborhood and users of the Los Angeles River. Through multiple grant sources, we have acquired 1.82 acres towards the expansion and negotiating with 4 remaining property owners for an additional 56 acres. Once we have completed the use of our Proposition 13 funding, we will have acquired a total of 2.38 acres toward the park expansion.

The City would like to request funding assistance from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to develop a Master Plan for development of the newly acquired properties into passive green space. In keeping with the current passive nature of the park, we are seeking to develop a plan to maximize that same quality in the expansion area.

We would appreciate any assistance you can provide us in acquiring funding for a Master Plan for the Dills Park expansion area. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (562) 220-2138.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT

David M. Johnson  
Assistant Recreation Director

16400 Colorado Avenue • Paramount, CA 90723-5012 • Ph: 562.220-2000 • Fax, 562-630-6731  
[www.paramountcity.com](http://www.paramountcity.com)

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 9(E): Consideration of a resolution authorizing a grant to the City of Baldwin Park for the Park Master Plan Project.

**BACKGROUND:**

Baldwin Park was incorporated in 1956 and has changed from a small farming community in the late 1800's, to a densely populated city of approximately 77,000 residents. At present the city has five parks, of which only one, Walnut Creek Nature Park, has integrated passive recreational elements. In 1996, a rough draft of a Park Master Plan was produced for the City. However, the plan was not comprehensive enough for the growing population and the ever-increasing demand for open space. With 0.50 acres for every 1,000 residents, the City is in need of additional passive and active park space. In response to the demand for increased park space, the Baldwin Park City Council identified a Park Master Plan as a priority.

In March 2003, the RMC received a Proposition 40 proposal from the City of Baldwin Park for the development of a Park Master Plan. The goals of the project submitted have been modified following discussions with City staff. The amended goals are as follows:

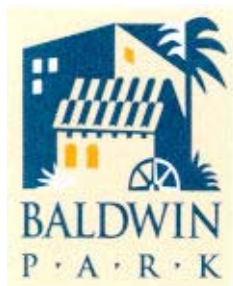
1. Identify the present and future needs of the community for open space and passive recreation;
2. Identify opportunities for increasing open space and passive recreational opportunities;
3. Develop guidelines for meeting such opportunities and creating viable open space including changes in development policies and increased cooperation with the Baldwin Park Unified School District and the Park Landscaping/Street Median Maintenance Department;
4. Identify a means to enhance current open space including a plan for increasing the use of Walnut Creek Nature Park and creating access to Walnut Creek, a tributary of the San Gabriel River;
5. Identify funding for acquisition and capital improvements and a timeline for securing funds and making park improvements;
6. Establish a plan for operating and maintaining additional open space and recreational facilities;
7. Identifying opportunities to use native plants in present and future open space projects to lower overall water consumption;
8. Identify multi-benefit opportunities to enhance water quality through use of open space or passive recreation areas.

As stated in *Common Ground* (Section 3.0, page 48), the RMC is charged with working with local cities to encourage change in development policies and streamline regulations to promote watershed sustainability. The City of Baldwin Park's initiative to incorporate open space and passive recreation in their planning efforts and increase cooperation with their local school districts are actions that RMC encourages of all cities within the two watersheds. The development of a partnership between the RMC and the City of Baldwin Park not only has the potential for increased open space, passive recreation, and improved trail connectivity, but will also set an example for other cities of the benefits of holistic planning for park systems.

The Park Master Plan will cost approximately \$114,000, of which the City of Baldwin Park is requesting the RMC grant \$50,000. The RMC's contribution will solely cover the open space and passive recreation element of the study. The City currently has \$10,000 reserved for this project, although they have agreed to pursue the remainder of the cost.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of Baldwin Park in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the Park Master Plan project.



## EXHIBIT A

Manuel Carrillo, Jr.  
 Director of Recreation and  
 Community Services

September 5, 2003

Ms. Belinda Faustinos  
 Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
 900 S. Fremont Avenue Annex, 2nd floor  
 Alhambra, CA 91802

Dear Ms. Faustinos

On behalf of the residents of the City of Baldwin Park, we are writing this letter to request your support and consideration of funding the open space and passive recreation elements of a comprehensive Park Master Plan. I realize that this program will be a first for the RMC, although be assured the City of Baldwin Park has been very successful in obtaining and monitoring grants and seeing the projects through. Recently the City was one of the few cities state wide to receive competitive funding for the Barnes Park Rehabilitation Project. This program blends passive and non-passive open space together so that the entire community can benefit.

A few goals of the Park Master Plan are to identify the needs of the community now and in the future; identify opportunities for increasing green passive open space to protect and enhance the quality of life of Baldwin Park residents, and to assess passive recreational opportunities, such as the development of trail connections, accord with community needs. This study will fully optimize the open green space in the City and Baldwin Park Unified School District facilities. The study will develop guidelines for meeting such opportunities and creating viable green space including changes in the development policies and increased cooperation with the school district. We anticipate the study will provide recreational opportunities not only for the young but the entire family as well. The project will include a comprehensive review of Walnut Creek Nature Park. Currently this facility, which is connected to a tributary of the San Gabriel River, is not being used to it's fullest. It is anticipated the study will provide feedback in terms of how to use this facility to it's full potential.

The Park Master Plan will cost approximately \$114,000, of which we are requesting the RMC to grant in the amount of \$50,000. The RMC's contribution will specifically cover the passive open space element of the study. The City currently has \$10,000 reserved for this project, although will pursue the remainder of the cost. The City is committed to providing open green space to our residents; we hope you will join this partnership to address the current and future needs of our densely populated community.

Respectfully,

Manuel Carrillo, Jr.  
 Director of Recreation & Community Services

CITY OF BALDWIN PARK · ESTHER SNYDER COMMUNITY CENTER  
 4100 BALDWIN PARK BOULEVARD · BALDWIN PARK · CA · 91706 · (626) 813-5245 · FAX (626) 814-2998

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 9(F): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority for Woodland Duck Farm

**BACKGROUND**

The Woodland Duck Farm is located along the San Gabriel River just north of the confluence of the San Gabriel River and San Jose Creek. The western portion of the property had been occupied by the Duck Farm until 2001 when the property was purchased by The Trust for Public Land (TPL). The property consists of two portions: 45-acres along the west bank of the San Gabriel River and 12-acres on the eastern side of the 605 freeway.

Acquisition of the Woodland Duck Farm property for open space purposes offers potential benefits to the local community and to people throughout the region. These potential benefits include access to an extensive network of open space, passive recreation opportunities for a local population of 350,000 people, an opportunity for watershed education, access to over 6 miles of local and river trails, public access to riverfront habitat, flood protection and enhanced water quality.

It is anticipated that the planning phase will begin in Winter 2003 and will include the following:

- Concept Design
- Design Alternatives
- Community and agency input
- Site Inventory
- Revise Alternatives
- Final Design
- Funding

It was based on these factors that the Board authorized a grant to the WCA for purchase of the property and recommended acquisition on June 19, 2003. In order to expeditiously begin the planning phase for this contract it is recommended that the Board authorize a grant to WCA for planning at least Phase I of this project.

It is expected that Phase I will begin to address access, public safety and initial public uses of the site. This process will require that WCA enter into an RFP in order to select a consultant.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a planning grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for the Woodland Duck Farm.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 9(G): Consideration of a resolution authorizing a grant to the City of Seal Beach to investigate and develop a plan for open space opportunities

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Seal Beach is seeking a small planning grant to investigate potential open space opportunities within the city. Various opportunities for planning, partnership, and property acquisition may already exist and the city wishes to develop a cohesive approach to maximize its efforts. Additionally, there are several small, fragmented efforts to restore parks and open space areas within the city, and this grant will allow for a master plan approach to future projects. The RMC funding will allow a thorough investigation of open space opportunities, interested partners, property owner information, and significance to regional trails, recreational opportunities, as well as habitat value. Additionally, this study will provide the city an opportunity to evaluate storm drain infrastructure and water quality improvement projects, and how they can be linked to open space and habitat improvement opportunities.

This is an excellent opportunity to prioritize open space planning and acquisition with various goals of preservation, recreation, and connectivity to regional trails in mind. There are already a few parcels identified as a starting point with great potential of meeting the identified regional recreation and habitat goals within them. Potential constraints include finding a willing seller for identified property, as well as timing and additional funding sources. Further development of a restoration and trail/recreation plans for the identified areas will also be needed in the future.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of Seal Beach in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the Seal Beach Open Space Development Project.



**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 9(H): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the City of Whittier for the Whittier Greenway Trail project

**BACKGROUND:**

The project would study potential connections and develop feasible alternatives for a connection from the abandoned railroad right-of-way in the City of Whittier to the San Gabriel River and Pio Pico State Historic Park. The City previously submitted an application to the RMC for Proposition 40 funding. However, the conceptual connection from east of I-605 to the San Gabriel River appeared circuitous. The route identified in the grant application also required a tunnel under railroad tracks adjacent to the San Gabriel River bikeway which may not be feasible.

The project meets RMC goals including connecting open spaces with networks and creating low impact recreational opportunities. The City is eager to move forward and develop the entire trail but recognizes that a study is necessary to determine the most appropriate connection to the San Gabriel River. (See Exhibit A)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of Whittier in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the Whittier Greenway Trail project.

EXHIBIT A



*City of Whittier*

13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California 90602-1772  
(562) 945-8200

September 8, 2003

Belinda Faustinos  
San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
900 S. Fremont Avenue, Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

RE: Whittier Greenway Trail, West Connection to San Gabriel River Trail

Dear Ms. Faustinos:

The City of Whittier concurs with the Rivers & Mountains Conservancy analysis of the need for a comprehensive study related to the Whittier Greenway Trail, and requests \$150,000 to conduct such a study. The study would consider all alternatives for bridging the gap between the Whittier Greenway Trail Class I core, ending at Pioneer Boulevard in Whittier, and the San Gabriel River Trail, lying just west of the 605 Freeway.

The Whittier Greenway Trail is a five-mile Class I bicycle and pedestrian trail that travels along an abandoned railroad right-of-way, connecting Whittier neighborhoods to schools, parks and shopping. A more direct connection to the San Gabriel River Trail would easily connect Whittier riders to the river, the County's Amigo Park, the State's Pio Pico Historic Park, and the regional Los Angeles County bicycle trail network.

It is the City's intention to use the results of the study to justify and modify, if necessary, the City's grant application recently submitted to RMC for trail design and construction for this connecting link. We appreciate your interest in the Greenway Trail west connection and look forward to talking with you further.

Sincerely,

Nancy Mendez  
Assistant City Manager

**DATE: September 15, 2003**

**TO: RMC Governing Board**

**FROM: Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer**

**SUBJECT: Item 9(l): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the City of Compton for the Compton Creek project**

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Compton has been working diligently to implement the plans and strategies of the Compton Creek Regional Garden Park and Trails (Compton Creek) project in an effort to address a number of issues surrounding the Compton Creek watershed. The goal of the Compton Creek project is to transform the concrete channel that divides the City into a functioning recreational area that enhances the watershed and provides a focal point for residents and the region to embrace with pride. In this process, the City wants to make sure the project is consistent with existing plans and guidelines governing the Los Angeles River, and that it reflects current landscape trends and delivers maximum connectivity to the region.

The Compton Creek project is extremely complex. A master plan is essential to the project's overall success, but as yet, remains unfunded. Additional resources for planning would greatly benefit the Compton Creek project, and help achieve its objectives of reducing trash TMDLs, improving water quality, and beautifying the area by enhancing usable open space.

The project meets RMC goals including creating public open space, improving access to open space and low impact recreation, connecting open space with trails, and encourage multi-objective planning projects.

The City previously submitted an application to the RMC for Proposition 40 funds but was not previously selected as a candidate for funding due to the scope of the request. The City sought funds for a fence to be constructed along the Compton Creek. However, the project did score well overall based on its ultimate objectives as mentioned above.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the City of Compton in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the Compton Creek project.

## EXHIBIT A



*City of Compton*  
**ECONOMIC & RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**ARLENE W. WILLIAMS**  
Director

(310) 605-5580  
Fax. (310) 761-1419

September 8, 2003

Ms. Belinda Faustinos, Executive Officer  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
900 South Fremont Avenue, Annex 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Alhambra, CA 91802

Dear Ms. Faustinos:

The City of Compton has been working diligently to implement the plans and strategies of the Compton Creek Regional Garden Park and Trails project in an effort to address a number of issues surrounding the Compton Creek watershed. Our goal is to transform the canal from an unattractive concrete trench that cuts the City in half, into a beautiful, functioning recreational area that enhances the watershed and provides a focal point for residents and the region to embrace with pride. In this process, we want to make sure our project is consistent with existing plans and guidelines governing the Los Angeles River; that it reflects current landscape trends, and delivers maximum connectivity to the region.

The Compton Creek Regional Garden Park project is extremely complex. A master plan is essential to the project's overall success, but as yet, remains unfunded. Additional resources for planning would greatly benefit the Compton Creek Regional Garden Park project, and help assure its objectives of reducing the trash TMDLs, improving water quality, and beautifying the area by enhancing usable open space are achieved.

Thank you very much for your continued support and consideration for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arlene W. Williams".

Arlene W. Williams, Coordinator  
Compton Creek Task Force and  
Director Economic & Resource Development



**COMPTON CITY HALL**  
205 South Willowbrook Avenue Compton, California 90220

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 9(J): Consideration of a resolution authorizing a grant to the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy for the development and production of the San Gabriel Watershed Habitat Restoration Assessment Project

**BACKGROUND:**

The San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy has proposed the development of a watershed plan to address the Upper San Gabriel River, Walnut Creek, and San Jose Creek Subwatersheds. The plan anticipates working with stakeholders and consultants to establish reasonable habitat restoration goals and objectives.

The project scope includes:

- Collect and compile existing data
- Inventory and review data
- GIS maps
- Data gap assessments
- Field assessment
- Restoration recommendations and priorities

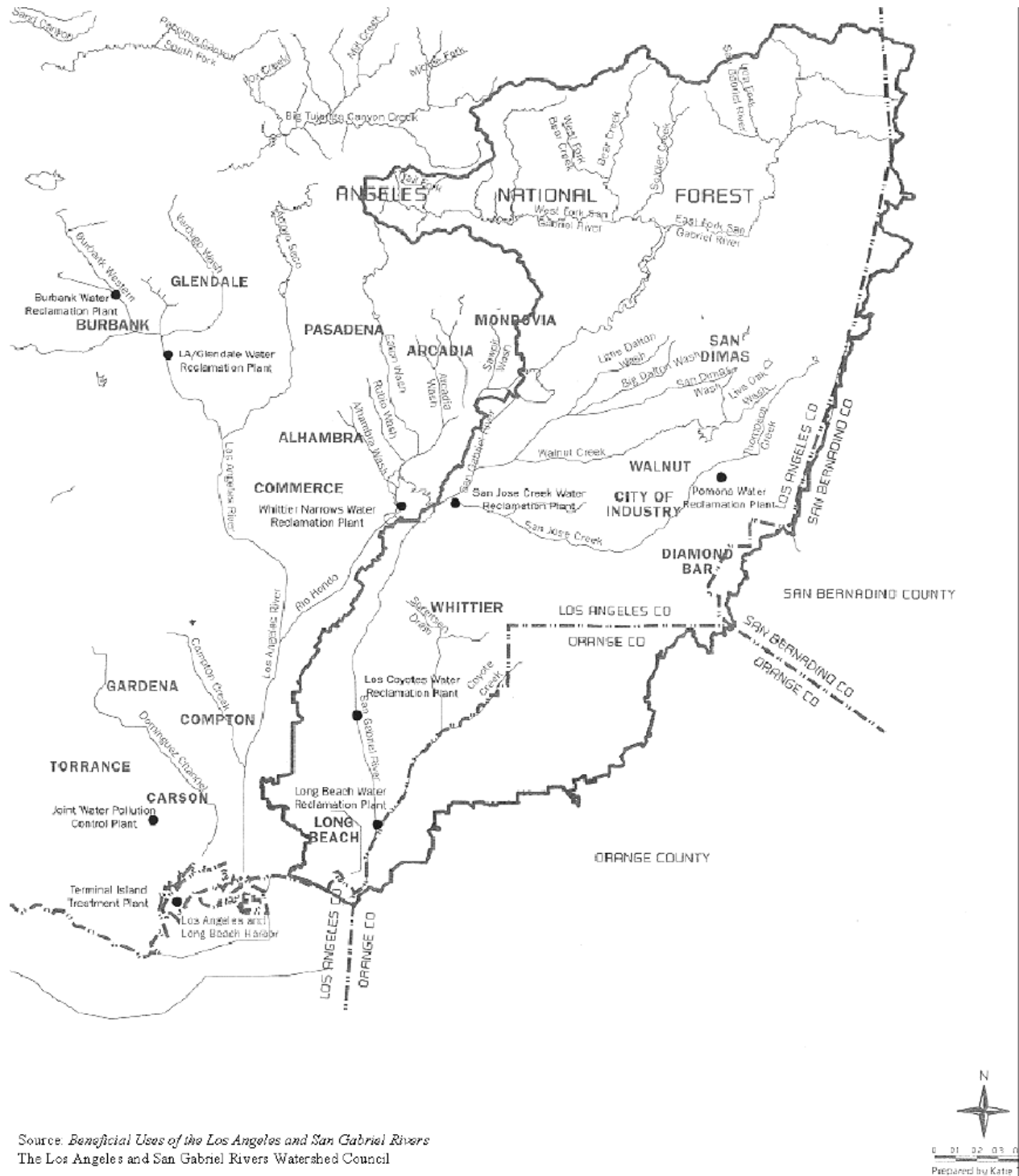
The San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy has requested \$86,895 of the \$286,895 total project cost, with the balance funding to be provided by a Proposition 13 grant. This project will help the RMC develop the habitat plan as identified in *Common Ground*.

The project scored very high in habitat resource value and hydrologic resource value. This project also incorporated urban resource value and scored high in feasibility making it an attractive project to include in our workplan. This project will result in an immediately useable plan to assist the RMC in the development of the habitat plan.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy in an amount not to exceed \$86,895 for the San Gabriel Watershed Habitat Restoration Assessment Project.

## EXHIBIT A



**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 10: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority for a trail, bike path, access, signage and low impact recreational access improvement project

### **BACKGROUND**

On August 25, 2003, the WCA Governing Board requested a grant from the RMC for a trail, bike path, access, signage and low impact recreational access improvement project to be added to the Workprogram. The WCA has identified trail access and signage improvements as a critical need for the river corridors in our territory. While there is a tremendous need to add new open space and river parkway improvements, many of our existing parks and bikeway access points are unknown to the community because there is either inadequate or a total lack of signs for these sites.

The Los Angeles Master Plan Advisory Committee through the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Watershed Division (Watershed Division) is very close to finalizing a signage standards manual. The San Gabriel River Master Plan is expected to incorporate these standards by reference. While the Watershed Division has identified a small amount of funding for installation of signs in the Elysian Valley portion of the Los Angeles River, the WCA has been advised that funding has not been identified for signs in other areas.

In addition to signage along the river corridors, the WCA staff is interested in pursuing funding for a "Wayfinding" program. The concept would be to develop standards, which could be used by local jurisdictions; however, it is recommended that the program specifically include implementation funding to install signage at several major Los Angeles County maintained intersections which would direct the public to River/Tributary trail access points.

Further the WCA is interested in working with the Watershed Division to locate specific sites along the right of way of all rivers and major tributaries within our territory which may be appropriate for trail access improvements such as those developed by various government and non-profit entities in the Elysian Valley area. The major consideration for these types of projects is of course identifying an appropriate source of funding for maintenance of the project.

RMC considers this project a critical element that should be addressed in order to encourage recreational activities throughout the watershed, provide safe and well-defined access points and connection, and promote nearby watershed projects.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority in an amount to exceed \$500,000 for a trail, bike path, access, signage and low impact recreational access improvement project.



**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 11: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Media and Policy Center Foundation of California for development and production of an educational program on Urban Forestry and the Creation of Sustainable Ecosystems

### **BACKGROUND**

The Media and Policy Center Foundation of California is a foundation that serves as the "home" and the driving force for projects that bring together multiple media formats and national issues to raise public awareness, motivate civic engagement, and encourage investment in our social capital on a community and national scale.

*Eden's Lost and Found: Reclaiming America's Cities Through Urban Forestry and the Creation of Sustainable Ecosystems*, produced through the Media and Policy Foundation, was developed to create an integrated media and coordinated grassroots educational project for PBS and international broadcasters dealing with the rebirth of the urban environment. Timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the United States Forest Service, *Eden's Lost and Found* will show how urban and community forestry improves the quality of our daily lives, and, in the process, re-connects citizens with their community. It will highlight national and global issues and solutions, and will demonstrate how communities can promote and participate in watershed sustainability (Exhibit A).

The project will draw attention to existing grassroots coalitions in Southern California and around the country. A separate outreach effort, using "clips" from the broadcast as talking points for community discussion, will support local Town Hall Meetings about creating sustainable ecosystems in at approximately 12 sites around the country, including several in California and as a result of this grant we can expect that there will be a focus on San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River issues. The deliverables will include an interactive web site that will provide a resource for viewers, including teachers, regarding sustainability concepts and the renewal of urban areas. A fully illustrated PBS Companion Book, will complement the broadcast by including background information regarding concepts discussed in the broadcast. Additional video footage not used in the actual broadcast, will be converted into a video resource library.

Wiland-Bell Productions is a multiple award-winning media production company, specializing in the design and implementation of socially relevant projects in an entertaining and enlightening context. Harry Wiland's and Dale Bell's individual productions have won one Academy Award, five Emmys, one Peabody, two Christophers, two Cine Golden Eagles, four Childrens' Acts, among other awards and nominations. Their collective films for PBS, networks, cable, and cinema represent an array of styles including journalism, documentary, dramatic feature film, performance, and industrial. Their last project was the multi-award winning *And Thou Shalt Honor...*, chosen as a PBS Program of the Month (October 2002) and Special Program of Note.

Support for *Eden's Lost and Found* is being solicited from local government agencies, including the RMC. This project will help to raise awareness in the areas of stormwater pollution prevention, water conservation, waste reduction, and urban land conservation through the use of multi-media tools.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the Media and Policy Center Foundation of California in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for development and production of an educational program on Urban Forestry and the Creation of Sustainable Ecosystems.

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August 27, 2003

Ms. Belinda Faustinos  
Executive Officer  
San Gabriel & Lower LA River Mtns Conservancy  
P.O. Box 1460  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Ms. Ms. Faustinos:

Thank you for your interest in supporting the Los Angeles components of our multi- media and national PBS project *Eden's Lost and Found: Reclaiming America's Cities Through Urban Forestry and the Creation of Sustainable Ecosystems*. We think Los Angeles and your Conservancy is in a leading position to tell this story; and want to thank Andy Lipkis for introducing us to you.

The goal of *Eden's Lost and Found* is to create an integrated media and coordinated grassroots educational project for PBS and international broadcasters dealing with the rebirth of the urban environment. *Eden's Lost and Found* will show how urban and community forestry improves the quality of our daily lives, and, in the process, re- connects citizens with their community.

We will use *Eden's Lost and Found* to bring together existing grassroots coalitions in Southern California and around the country, as well as to inspire new groups to begin working in communities large and small. These new and existing groups may participate in tree planting and stewardship in communities across the country. A separate outreach effort, using "clips" from the broadcast as talking points for community discussion, will support local Town Hall Meetings about creating sustainable ecosystems in at approximately 12 sites around the country, including several in California.

The interactive web site will provide a wealth of resources for many kinds of viewers, providing more useful and interesting concepts than can be presented in a two-hour documentary .All PBS viewers can learn more about the renewal of urban areas across the country .Middle school and high school science and civics teachers will find useful resources, including printable handouts, suggested lesson plans. As well, students and teachers will be able to participate in a live on-line chat near the debut of the broadcast.

We are also planning a fully illustrated PBS Companion Book, which will complement the broadcast by including background and follow-up to many of the stories presented in the broadcast. It will provide references for further study. Additional video footage not used in the actual broadcast, will be converted into a video resource library.

Though *Eden's Lost and Found* will highlight national and indeed global issues and solutions, the inspiration for the project emanates directly from small neighborhoods in greater Los Angeles and Southern California. Communities will demonstrate that they have the wisdom to



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phone (310)828-2966

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
fax (310)453-8485

Santa Monica, CA 90404  
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reverse long-standing engineering dogma to meet new watershed sustainability criteria, challenges and opportunities. Our city's urban ecological re-birth is an exciting story to tell.

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We are very grateful for your consideration. We look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Harry Wiland and Dale Bell', is written over the typed names. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the names 'Harry' and 'Dale' being more prominent.

Harry Wiland and Dale Bell  
Executive Producers and Partners  
Wiland-Bell Productions, LLC



2125 Arizona Avenue  
phone (310)828-2966

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
fax (310)453-8485

Santa Monica, CA 90404  
[www.wilandbellprod.com](http://www.wilandbellprod.com)

Item 11

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August 21, 2003

**EDENS LOST AND FOUND:  
RESTORING AND SUSTAINING GREEN & BLUE URBAN ECOSYSTEMS**

**A two-hour PBS  
Television Documentary  
And Educational Outreach Program**

**Presented by  
Harry Wiland and Dale Bell  
Executive Producers and Directors  
WILAND-BELL PRODUCTIONS, LLC.**



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2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The commitment of the Public Television Service is to “educate and inspire.” That is why Los Angeles’ PBS station is known as KCET, short for “Community Educational Television.” The ***Edens Lost and Found Project*** will raise public awareness and encourage community action to revitalize urban environments. Its goals combine community education with the art of successful community building. It will bring people out of their houses to effect change and create a sense of community.

The *Edens Lost and Found Project* will create an integrated media and coordinated educational outreach project for PBS and international broadcasters. It will show how urban and community forestry and integrated urban watershed management improves the quality of our daily lives. It will examine shifting urban priorities; re-visit earlier environmental strategies; and focus on the renewal of our urban areas through community-based urban forestry and sustainable landscape design/ management.

The project hopes to educate, enlighten, and motivate viewers and Web site users as stewards to implement the new concepts of green and blue sustainability to improve the quality of life in urban communities across the country. The broadcast documentary will serve as a gateway to draw viewers to the interactive educational Web site. The Web site, companion book, and localized action guides will complement the broadcast by providing more specific community-based information. These combined media resources will allow motivated citizens to create customized local planting and watershed strategies. Without localized information, no real progress in creating sustainable ecosystems can be made.

*Edens Lost and Found* will use, as a springboard, the ongoing transformation of Southern California (the Los Angeles area), from being the greatest urban contributor to global warming, and one of the largest consumers of fresh water in the entire southwestern US, to becoming a future model of environmental sustainability.

Other cities and communities have compelling stories to tell- some of them replicating the LA model, others innovating on their own. Candidates include Boston, DC, Seattle, Chicago, New York, Austin, and Topeka. Internationally, we will visit Australia, Canada, and Europe to see additional “Best Practice Models” of environmental sustainability.

In two, one-hour, nationally-broadcast episodes, *Edens Lost and Found* will tell the story of urban rebirth not only through the eyes of experts, but also through the passionate and committed eyes of “extraordinary ordinary” Americans. Stories of K-12 children working together planting trees, digging up tar and sledge-hammering cement slabs to re-plant grass fields in their school-yards. We then CUT to community volunteers, engineers and architects in Sun Valley (Los Angeles) as they figure out ways to solve a combined flooding, drought and water pollution problem by designing and installing a landscape that mimics / simulates the functions of a forest ecosystem...planting trees, strategically laying mulch, installing high tech



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phone (310)828-2966

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
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water storage systems to capture, clean and store and reuse rainwater to help meet local water needs.

*Edens Lost and Found* will highlight NEW practices in urban forestry , mixing them with the efforts of community volunteers who are being guided and supported by city / civil engineers, scientists, landscape architects, geologists, and political leaders. One of the goals of the Project is to increase public literacy about the role of individuals, families and businesses (so-called “non-points”) in addressing and resolving the key indicators of un-sustainability: preventing stormwater pollution, conserving water, preventing floods, conserving energy, etc.

The broadcast will create portraits of people coming together to form communities to reclaim and revitalize their urban ecosystems: restoring life to urban creeks and rivers, bio-remediating contaminated sites, or simply stripping asphalt off of land that has been “sealed” for decades, allowing the water back in so it can sustain the new life that volunteers are returning to the sites.

While people are the focus of this story, we will also reveal the wealth of scientific and academic research, as well as successful, proven, tested models and demonstrations of relatively new technologies, and general media information on the positive impact of trees in urban environments. This information will be interwoven and reflected throughout the program and its Web site, to provide a solid, educated underpinning to the activities on which we focus.

The package -- broadcast, Web, workbook, educational tapes for town hall and/ or community meetings and trainings -- will:

**Educate:** raise public awareness and literacy in the areas of: storm-water pollution prevention, water conservation, waste reduction and prevention, energy conservation, urban land conservation. By focusing on urban/ community forestry, integrated urban watershed management

**Support/enable effective action both individual and community:** by showcasing models of effective and projects, it will inspire people to take appropriate actions in their own lives where they live, work, learn and play, and also to join with their neighbors and colleagues to take on projects that revitalize the "commons", The package will do this in several ways:

- The Web site and book will provide resources to guide individuals, families and community groups
- To succeed in this work people must be equipped with special knowledge in:
  - 1) ***The science of community forestry and urban watershed management.*** Not just simply greening and decorating, this is ecosystem repair / revitalization. A host of techniques including proper species selection, site preparation, design, bio-remediation technology, long term maintenance plans must be employed for a tree to live and for a project to succeed in

accomplishing its healing objectives. As technical as this seems, there are a host of resources available and an already well-worn path of citizen training and support that organizations like TreePeople have developed over the past 20 years to easily and successfully guide organizations through what would otherwise be an overwhelming task.

- 2) ***The art of community.*** Developing a neighborhood vision. Organizing, recruiting for, managing, facilitating and following up a community meeting. Facilitating conflict resolution. Neighborhood/ community publicity. Local fund-raising. All of these are critical skills needed to ensure success. And as above, TreePeople has developed a training and guidebook that makes this a simple path to success.
- 3) ***Engaging the support and cooperation of local government.*** Every community has individual ordinances, policies, and permit procedures that guide and regulate community greening action. Special permits, insurance, bonds, assurances are often required for simple tree planting. Similarly, in every community there are resources available to guide appropriate action, but usually those resource people are hidden from public view. All too often community groups come together to take action and inadvertently bump into the regulations and guides and wind up in conflict, seeing them as restrictions, barriers and punitive actions. These conflicts, without proper guidance, often kill good projects or worse, wind up embittering the community members and "de-motivating" them, thus fueling their cynicism. The Citizen Forester training program developed by TreePeople helps groups onto the right path of partnership and collaboration that leads to long-term success.

### **Timeline and Budget:**

We anticipate the PBS airdate for *Edens Lost and Found* will be June 2005, to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the US Forest Service. Fundraising for research and development is underway and will continue through November 2003; fundraising for the production, Web sitesite, educational outreach and promotion/ publicity campaign will continue through January 2005. Budget and Timeline

The budget for *Edens Lost and Found* is \$2,300,000.

It is broken down as follows:

- 1) \$100,000 for research and development
- 2) \$1,120,000 for production, \$1 million of which must be raised by February 2004
- 3) \$1,000,000 for educational outreach, \$750,000 of which must be raised by April 2004.
  - a. Outreach --\$600,000
  - b. WWeb sitesite --\$200,000





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c. Publicity and promotion --\$200,000

\* Can also include in-kind services.

Support for *Edens Lost and Found* is being solicited from foundations, individuals, corporate sponsors, CPB, PBS, government agencies, professional organizations, and academic institutions.

### ***Edens Lost and Found* Media/Outreach Model**

Our medial outreach model will be based on the success of Wiland-Bell's most recent project, *And Thou Shalt Honor... ATSH* was PBS's Program of Note for October 2002, and rallied more than 1,500 grassroots coalitions in a comprehensive nationwide outreach campaign. This two-hour program about caregiving---and the people who care for their loved ones---received universal critical acclaim and higher than normal ratings, created 110 million media impressions in print and on television, spawned a companion book published by Rodale Inc., attracted Rosalynn Carter to write the Foreword, employed an interactive Web sitesite that featured a database of 40,000 names of service providers (accessible by their zip codes), motivated thousands of people to call their local PBS stations, and finally, fostered 10 other care giving films that are being offered to more than 100,000 professional organizations with educational support. It represented PBS' best-coordinated marketing effort in 2002-03. The *ATSH* video was the #1 best-selling video, in its category, from October through December 2002.

### **Board of Advisors: (in development)**

The 12-15 member Board of Advisors will meet, via conference call, several times during the course of the project to discuss the scope and goals of the project. Depending upon budget, the Board will assemble at the beginning of production and when the fine-cut is finished. They will represent a cross-section of academic, government, and community leaders from across the country. Potential candidates include:

- **Andy Lipkis, President/ CEO of TreePeople, Los Angeles**
- **Dr. Ann Croissant, President of the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy, Pomona**
- **Deborah Shore, Executive Director, Chicago Wilderness**

### **Web sitesite, educational outreach and additional resources**

Building upon the model created for *And Thou Shalt Honor*. ..and working through our Board of Advisors and the community outreach departments of public television stations, we will use *Edens Lost and Found* to bring together existing grassroots coalitions around the country , as well as inspire new groups to begin working in communities large and small. These new and existing groups may participate in *Edens Lost and Found* tree planting and stewardship in communities across the country. A separate outreach effort, using "clips" from the broadcast as



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talking points for community discussion, will support local Town Hall Meetings about creating sustainable ecosystems in at approximately 12 sites around the country. This figure is dependent upon the success of our fundraising.

The interactive *Edens Lost and Found* Web site will provide a wealth of resources for many kinds of viewers, providing more useful and interesting concepts than can be presented in a two-hour documentary. All PBS viewers can learn more about the renewal of urban areas across the country. Middle school and high school science and civics teachers will find useful resources, including printable handouts, suggested lesson plans. As well, students and teachers across the country will be able to participate in a live on-line chat near the debut of the broadcast with TreePeople's Andy Lipkis, Chicago Mayor and committed arborist Richard Daley, San Gabriel Conservancy Director Ann Croissant, Chicago Wilderness Executive Director Debra Shore, and the project's producers, among others.

We are also planning an *Edens Lost and Found* fully illustrated PBS Companion Book. As with Wiland-Bell Productions *ATSH*, the companion book will complement the broadcast by including background and follow-up to many of the stories presented in the broadcast. It will provide references for further study.

Additional video footage not used in the actual broadcast will be converted into a video resource library on subjects ranging from watershed management, tree maintenance, community building and energy efficiencies to lessons of ecosystem sustainability, making the best use of all the raw footage and intellectual capital created for the two- hour series.

## Conclusion

Though *Edens Lost and Found* will highlight national and indeed global issues and solutions, the inspiration emanates directly from small neighborhoods and cities. The project will showcase the people in cities and towns seeking solutions as they engage in community interaction designing and building sustainable ecosystems. Finally, the residents of Los Angeles --and of other cities across the country --will demonstrate that they have the wisdom to reverse long-standing engineering dogma to meet new green and blue sustainability criteria, challenges and opportunities. Hopefully *Edens Lost and Found* will inspire and encourage others to embark on these kinds of projects in their own communities. Our country's ecological re-birth is an exciting story to tell.

---

## The Production Team

### Harry Wiland

#### Producer /Director /Writer

Harry Wiland is a versatile producer with an Emmy Award-winning career as a television producer / director as well as a new media innovator in the field of educational multimedia courseware. He has produced and directed numerous specials on network, public and cable television, including the Emmy Awarded productions *Showdown At The Palace*, an internationally syndicated special, and *Bridge Over Troubled Waters*. His documentaries and music specials such as *White Gospel* and *Earl Scruggs: His Family and Friends* have led him to work with many of America's best known recording artists including Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Dolly Parton and Johnny Cash.

Harry was the co-founder and former CEO of Leonardo Internet, which developed educational multimedia software. He continues to be active in the new media arena and recently produced a number of distance learning programs for teacher training for Allyn & Bacon and KCET. Additionally, he recently completed a six-hour project entitled *Change Your Job/Change Your Life* for PBS, which included a cross-platform CD-ROM, Web site, home video and course manual. He authored a weekly column, *Wiland's World*, for [www.freeagent.com](http://www.freeagent.com).

Harry is a director member of the Directors Guild of America, and he holds an M.F .A. in film from Columbia University. With his partner Dale Bell, he was Executive Producer /Director /Writer of the award-winning *And Thou Shalt Honor...*, a 2-hour special PBS broadcast on family caregiving, hosted by Joe Mantegna. *ATSH* was named by PBS to be a "special program of note," and was additionally honored as October's Program Pick of the Month (2002). The telecast was supported by a nationwide community grassroots outreach and publicity campaign, an interactive Web site, and companion book, published by Rodale Inc., with Foreword by Rosalynn Carter .

### Dale Bell

#### **Producer/Director/Writer**

A television producer and executive with many awards to his credit, Dale Bell's wide-ranging career has seen him write, produce, direct and sell many hours of documentary' film. His recent works include *The Secrets of War*, *Shangri-La: Ancient Mystery* and *California and the Dream Seekers* for A&E, *Pirate Tales* for TBS, *Battleship!* for Discovery, *A Driving Need* for PBS, and *Chariots of the Gods?: The Mystery Continues* for ABC. His productions in both film and television have earned him an Academy Award, an Emmy, a Peabody Award, two Christopher Awards and two Cine Golden Eagle Awards. Bell has also just written and edited a 30th anniversary book which tells the many personal stories behind the Academy Award-winning movie *Woodstock*, of which he was a producer. He was also Martin Scorsese's assistant director on *Mean Streets*, producer of *The Italian Americans*, and Associate Producer of *The Groove Tube*. And, during Bell's four-year tenure as executive producer of the PBS



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fax (310)453-8485

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book-based family movie series, *WonderWorks* won the Children's Act Award annually, as well as other domestic and international awards of excellence.

Dale has supervised production of National Geographic specials while producing two of them. Reserved as vice president of worldwide production at Pittsburgh's PBS affiliate WQED, working on documentaries, dramatic films, and performance specials that included music, dance, jazz and drama. His extensive fund-raising savvy brought such Emmy Award-winning series as *Kennedy Center Tonight* and *Previn and the Pittsburgh* to fruition and to date, he has raised \$57 million for the production of quality cultural programs. He has extensive experience in international co-production, distribution, project administration, and management, station relations, publicity, and promotion. He serves on the Board of Advisors of *Blackside Productions* and *The Shakespeare Guild*.

Dale is a member of the Directors Guild of America and the Writers Guild of America.

## **WILAND-BELL PRODUCTIONS**

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• **EDENS LOST AND FOUND: BENEFITS FOR A CORPORATE PBS UNDERWRITER**

- Affiliation with PBS, its corporate neighborhood, and its LOGO that sets the standard of quality for television
- Access to the 25 million young people and their parents through our website, coalition partnerships, strategic alliances, agencies and non-profits affiliated with our Board of Advisors.
- Two 60-second announcement "pods" per ninety minute program (funders arranged by size of contributions), including brand or corporate mascot/logo, slogans, toll-free number, website, product(s), voiceovers.
- One "Network Broadcast" and numerous local repeat viewings occur within a week,
- Program audience estimate: between 6-10 million.
- Sponsorship of live televised local town hall meetings after the network broadcast.
- Off-air program-related promotion with corporate linkages; use of LOGOs and Mission Statements printed on millions of pieces, distributed to schools, colleges, interfaith groups, community centers, unions, professional guilds and organizations.
- Identification with PBS on all "outreach" material, in all media.
- URL links on each page of our PBS website.
- Ability to promote educational outreach activities in addition to PBS sponsorship.
- The ability to publicize corporate sponsorship from the moment of sign on and throughout the years of production and outreach to employees, consumers, stockholders, community leaders, international partners, and legislators.
- Opportunity to host gala or community events in select markets, state capitals or in Washington, DC. Could even open the program in the East Room of the White House with one or more of the winning contestants introducing the program.
- @ AfterMarket: Participation in sponsoring the distribution of the companion book(s), enhanced DVD, and vhs and continue outreach.
- Creation and sponsorship of Seminar Programs.
- Creation and sponsorship of Speakers Bureau.
- Creation of on-going online newsletter called *Edens Lost and Found...*

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 12: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Watershed improvement projects

### **BACKGROUND**

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC), based in South Central and East Los Angeles, is one of the largest independent non-profit agencies in the nation. Founded in 1986 by former U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Mickey Kantor, the LACC employs approximately 300 young adults as corpsmembers and 2,200 junior high and high school students annually to serve the greater Los Angeles community through environmental enhancement and community improvement projects.

The Main Street Center was the first center established in 1986, and is located in South Los Angeles. The Hammel Center opened in 1993 as an effort to expand LACC's services and meet the obvious needs of the East Los Angeles community. The Hammel Center is located in the heart of East Los Angeles. The third center was opened in 2000 at the Watts Youth Opportunities High School. All three centers employ 50-60 corpsmembers at any given time.

The LACC gives young adult corpsmembers an opportunity to develop their education, work and leadership skills. They alternate between a week of work and a week of school as part of the program requirements. The LACC is a lead agency and local model for Building Up Los Angeles, a project of AmeriCorps, the National Service program. The LACC is one of 60 agencies participating in this national program. The LACC is funded by a variety of government agencies, grants, work projects, corporate sponsors and private donations.

LACC will be designated to work on certain projects within the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River watersheds.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers watershed improvement projects.

**EXHIBIT A**



**Los Angeles  
Conservation Corps**

Executive Office, Suite 280  
3655 S. Grand Avenue,  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
Telephone 213 747-1872  
Fax 213 747-2944

September 5, 2003

Ms. Belinda Faustinos, Executive Officer  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
900 S. Fremont Ave.  
Alhambra, CA 91802

Dear Ms. Faustinos:

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) respectfully requests project funding in the amount of \$150,000. Funding from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy will allow LACC corpsmembers to on work improving the environment in and around the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo rivers. Specifically, LACC corpsmembers will assist with the demolition of the buildings and construction of the new facilities on the Duck Farm site. In addition, LACC crews will remove invasive weeds on the property and landscape areas designated by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. LACC corpsmembers will also perform on site water Quality monitoring. Along with the work to be performed on the old Duck Farm site, the LACC has also been requested by the County of LA Department of Parks & Recreation to aid Whittier Narrows staff in monitoring water quality at Mission Creek.

The aforementioned projects and scope of work, will add to the list of projects LACC corpsmembers have worked on and continue to work on in the San Gabriel and LA river watersheds. LACC crews have removed arundo in Whittier Narrows, performed litter and debris abatement projects along every branch of the LA and San Gabriel rivers, built fences around ecologically sensitive areas, and restored countless acres of natural habitat. Many of our corpsmembers have grown up and live in the vicinity of these projects and take great pride in their work and the communities they live and work in.

Again, funding from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy will not only address the project plans and priorities of the Conservancy but will also provide many of the local young people an opportunity to help with the restoration of their own back yard. Securing this funding is critical to addressing this need. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Bruce Saito  
Executive Director



**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 13: Consideration of a resolution authorizing a grant to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments for implementation of a Brownfields study

**BACKGROUND:**

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) has requested assistance from the RMC to initiate a Brownfield inventory of the San Gabriel Valley. Presently, San Gabriel Valley cities have begun to develop lists of potential Brownfield sites, however, these lists are presumed to be incomplete and there is no established order of priority for the use of funds that becomes available to the San Gabriel Valley.

The project includes developing an inventory of Brownfield sites in the San Gabriel Valley and ranking these sites in order of priority. The sites will be evaluated and prioritized based on several characteristics including, the extent of the contamination, the range of clean-up costs, the potential impact on human health, and the opportunities for redevelopment. The sites will be sampled and analyzed. A final report will be submitted to the EPA, SGVCOG Governing Board and the RMC.

As stated in *Common Ground* (Section 3.0, page 47), the RMC is charged with creating, expanding, and improve public open space. *Common Ground* specifically mentions the necessity to recycle Brownfields with cooperation of EPA, DTSC, and other agencies. The SGVCOG initiative to catalog these region wide opportunities will result in the identification of parcels that could be remediate for future use as open space, passive recreation, and improved trail connectivity. Presently, "Brownfields" status is a category used to evaluate projects submitted to the RMC. However, if an inventory was developed of the region wide Brownfields, the RMC could identify projects of priority to the San Gabriel Valley and analyze their relation to present RMC projects to maximize the beneficial use of open space.

The Brownfields Study will cost approximately \$250,000. It is expected that city staff throughout the region will donate approximately 300 labors hours to the project. If funding is granted, the project will begin immediately.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for implementation of a Brownfields study.





# San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

3871 East Colorado Blvd., Suite 101, Pasadena, California 91107-3970 Phone: (626) 564-9702 FAX: (626) 564-1116 E-Mail [SGV@sgvcog.org](mailto:SGV@sgvcog.org)

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September 4, 2003

Ms. Belinda Faustinos  
San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy  
900 S. Fremont, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Alhambra, CA 91802

Dear Belinda:

The San Gabriel Council of Governments requests assistance from the RMC to initiate a Brownfield inventory of the San Gabriel Valley. Presently San Gabriel Valley cities have begun to develop lists of potential Brownfield sites, however, these lists are presumed to be incomplete and there is no established beneficial order of priority for the use of funds that becomes available to the San Gabriel Valley. The project includes developing an inventory of Brownfield sites in the San Gabriel Valley and ranking these sites in order of priority. The sites will be evaluated and prioritized based on several characteristics including, the extent of the contamination, the range of clean-up costs, the potential impact on human health, and the opportunities for redevelopment.

The RMC and San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership have been supporters of this project since its inception, however resource constraints precluded it award during several federal government grant cycles. We hope to receive you continued support and request that the RMC consider this project for future funding as it becomes available.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 626 564-9702.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Nicholas T. Conway". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nicholas T. Conway  
Executive Director

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Gateway Cities Council of Governments for expansion of a bike trail along the Santa Ana branch of the abandoned PE right-of-way

**BACKGROUND:**

The "West Santa Ana Main Branch" of the old Pacific Electric Railway is currently a largely unused pathway through the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River Watersheds being held by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) for future use as a transportation corridor. In fact, this pathway traverses the distance between the two rivers and Coyote Creek. A feasibility study was conducted in 1995 regarding the suitability of this property for a regional greenway and Class 1 bike trail, potentially connecting the Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River and Coyote Creek bike trails. The study found this use to be generally feasible and compatible with both surrounding land uses and with the ultimate development of the property as a transportation corridor.

The City of Bellflower, with funding from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, is currently progressing toward implementation of that portion of the bike trail and greenway that is within its city limits. The Cities of Artesia and Paramount have expressed interest in completing the portions within their city limits should funding become available. The City of Cerritos participated in the initial feasibility study and remains a party of interest but has not made a decision to implement at this time.

With funding from the RMC, the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG) would be able to extend the City of Bellflower work westward through the City of Paramount and eastward in the City of Artesia and, if desired, Cerritos. The COG would engage a consultant to review and update the feasibility study, including coordination with the plans and policies of the MTA, the Orange Line Development Authority and the affected cities as well as the RMC. The consultant would also prepare conceptual plans and a phasing plan for phased implementation as further funds become available. Budget permitting, preliminary engineering would begin on the first recommended segment of the phasing plan.

COG staff and the Chairperson of the COG Conservancy Committee will recommend this work program to the COG Executive Committee for formal approval at its October meeting.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the Gateway Cities Council of Governments in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for the expansion of a bike trail along the Santa Ana branch of the abandoned PE right-of-way.



# GATEWAY CITIES

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

September 9, 2003

Belinda Faustinos, Executive Officer  
 San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
 900 S. Fremont Avenue  
 Alhambra, CA 91802

Dear Ms. Faustinos.

In working with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG) has emphasized both improvements to the rivers and streams in our watershed and the importance of enhancing open space, recreational opportunities and access for the underserved core urban areas of the region. In that regard, the improvement of bicycle and pedestrian access across the region, and specifically to the rivers and river trails, as well as the greening of existing underutilized open space are key opportunities.

The "West Santa Ana Main Branch" of the old Pacific Electric Railway is currently a largely unused pathway through the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River Watersheds. In fact, it connects the two rivers. This property with potential for a regional greenway and bike trail is held by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority as a future transportation corridor. A feasibility study was done covering the Cities of Paramount, Bellflower, Cerritos and Artesia.

Building on that study, the City of Bellflower has obtained funding from the MTA for implementation of that portion of the project that is within its City Limits. The Cities of Artesia and Paramount desire to complete the portions within their City Limits, but funding has not been available

Funding from the RMC would allow the COG to extend the City of Bellflower project westward through the City of Paramount and eastward in the City of Artesia. The COG would engage a consultant to review and update the feasibility study, prepare conceptual plans and prepare a phasing plan for phased implementation as further funds become available. Budget permitting, design work would also begin.

The COG respectfully requests your consideration of this project for available bond funding, subject to normal approval of the COG Executive Committee at its next meeting.

Sincerely,

Richard Powers  
 Executive Director

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 15: Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 40 and/or 50 grant to the Orange County Division of League of California Cities for identification of high priority regional open space and recreational opportunities.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Orange County Division of the League of California Cities (OCD) serves the cities of Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Cypress, Fullerton, La Habra, La Habra Heights, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Placentia and Seal Beach, located within RMC territory. The OCD encourages and coordinates the communications of ideas and information among city officials, develops broad support on issues and advocates those views to other governmental agencies and the public, and improve the quality of life in cities by assisting city officials to make services more efficient and more responsive to the citizens of our cities.

On September 9, 2003, the RMC received a request from the OCD to assess open space, habitat, low impact recreation, watershed improvements and educational uses in the Orange County area. At present the OCD, provides legislative advocacy, policy development, training and education programs, and a forum for discussing regional and state issues.

The RMC has recommended 31 projects in Orange County for the Workprogram, however RMC lacks the personnel needed to discern potential projects and to identify priority projects for the region. This critical gap can be solved with the assistance of the OCD in identifying projects that enhance open space, habitat, low impact recreation, watershed improvements and environmental education.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a Proposition 40 and/or 50 grant to the Orange County Division of League of California Cities in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 for identification of high priority regional open space and recreational opportunities.



## ORANGE COUNTY DIVISION

800 WEST SANTA ANA BOULEVARD, SUITE 214, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701  
TELEPHONE: (714) 972-0077 FAX: (714) 972-1816 email: occities@occities.org

*Orange County Cities Working Together*

Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
Via Fax – 1 Page

September 9, 2003

ALISO VIEJO  
BREA  
BUENA PARK  
COSTA MESA  
CYPRESS  
DANA POINT  
FOUNTAIN VALLEY  
FULLERTON  
HUNTINGTON BEACH  
LA HABRA  
LA PALMA  
LAGUNA BEACH  
LAGUNA HILLS  
LAGUNA NIGUEL  
LAGUNA WOODS  
LAKE FOREST  
LOS ALAMITOS  
MISSION VIEJO  
NEWPORT BEACH  
ORANGE  
PLACENTIA  
RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA  
SAN CLEMENTE  
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO  
SEAL BEACH  
STANTON  
TUSTIN  
VILLA PARK  
WESTMINSTER  
YORBA LINDA

The Orange County Division of the League of Cities has been an active partner with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) since it was established by the legislature in 1999. We are pleased to see that the RMC is now in a position to move ahead with project funding to implement projects that benefit our region.

However, knowing that the capacity for the RMC to handle all the varied opportunities there are throughout the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watershed is challenging, we are requesting that the Board consider funding the Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG) through the Orange County Division to assist with the identification of priority projects within our County. In discussions with your Executive Officer, Belinda Faustinos and our board representatives Bev Perry and Paul Yost, I believe it would be very beneficial to our success in bringing the best projects for consideration to the RMC by having the internal capacity to assess open space, habitat, low impact recreation, watershed improvements and educational uses in our region.

Therefore, we are requesting that the RMC Board consider the allocation of \$125,000 to the Orange County Division of the League of Cities for this purpose. It would be our intent to work closely with RMC staff, our cities and the County of Orange to best facilitate this endeavor. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Regards,

Michael Gold  
Acting Executive Director

PRESIDENT: Marty Simonoff, Council Member, Brea; FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Peter Herzog, Mayor Pro Tem, Lake Forest;  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Don Bankhead, Mayor, Fullerton; AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE: Debbie Cook, Council Member, Huntington Beach;  
AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE: Patsy Marshall, Council Member, Buena Park; PAST PRESIDENT: Susan Ritschel, Mayor Pro Tem, San Clemente;  
STATO LEAGUE DIRECTOR: Bev Perry, Mayor, Brea; ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR: Carolyn Cavocchi, Mayor Pro Tem, Orange;  
OCTA REPRESENTATIVE: Tim Koonan, Mayor Pro Tem, Cypress; ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Michael Gold

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 16: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority from Proposition 40 and 50 for implementation of the RMC Workprogram including procedures for disbursement of grant funds

### **BACKGROUND**

The RMC has been allocated \$40 million from Proposition 40 and \$20 million from Proposition 50. The usual practice of the Administration and Department of Finance is to schedule the appropriation of bond funds over a three to four year period. Due to the support of Resources Agency the RMC was successful in obtaining a “front loading” of bond funds. This was approved largely due to the fact that it was recognized that there has been a backlog of park and open space projects in RMC’s territory.

Therefore, last year the RMC received an appropriation of \$18 million from Proposition 40 and this year has \$12,400,000 in Proposition 40 and \$4,500,000 from Proposition 50 for a total of \$34,900,000. That leaves RMC \$25,100,000 for the next two to three years. It should be noted that at least another \$13,900,000 will benefit this territory from Resources Agency Proposition 12 funds.

As was summarized in the Workprogram spreadsheet, the RMC has, if all grants are approved at the amounts submitted by staff, allocated \$22,004,588 to date. Therefore, \$12,895,412 is available for those projects that have been identified in the Workprogram. In order to ensure that these funds are available in an expeditious manner and so as not to jeopardize any opportunities that may arise in the near future it is recommended that all of the remaining funds be granted to WCA for purposes of implementing the Workprogram.

Staff also recommends that the RMC adopt the following procedures for disbursement of grant funds:

Funds will not be transferred in advance of actual need. The RMC may authorize the award of a grant containing a provision permitting immediate transfer of grant funds if the following conditions are met:

1. The grantee requests immediate transfer of funds;
2. The RMC finds that such transfer is necessary to carry out the purposes for which the funds are to be granted, and if it finds that without such immediate transfer successful completion of the project would jeopardized;
3. Earning additional interest income from the immediate payment of a grant is not, in itself, a sufficient reason to provide for immediate payment, but may be used in conjunction with other factors to make a showing of need pursuant to paragraph (2). Any earnings from additional interest income from the immediate payment of a grant shall be used for project related purposes, or for such other related purposes as the RMC may determine.

Further, the RMC may authorize the award of a grant containing a provision permitting progress payments (partial payments) on a grant for a portion or segment of the work needed to complete a task:

1. Not less than ten percent (10%) of the contract amount shall be withheld pending final completion of the project. If a contract consists of the performance of separate and distinct tasks, then any funds withheld for a particular task may be paid upon completion of that task (PCC § 10346);
2. Progress payments shall be made not more frequently than monthly in arrears or at clearly identifiable stages of progress, based upon written progress reports submitted with the grantee's invoices;
3. Progress payments shall be made in advance of services rendered, if it has been determined that such as advance is necessary for the successful completion of the project.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the RMC Governing Board authorize a grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority in an amount not to exceed \$12,895,412 for implementation of the RMC Workprogram including procedures for disbursement of grant funds.

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 17: Discussion and possible action concerning negotiations with the City of Industry related to the Woodland Duck Farm property, Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 8115-001-001, -002; 8115-002-001, -002, -003, -004, -005, -007 (This item may be heard in closed session pursuant to Section 11126 (c) (7) (A) and 11126 (e) (1) of the Government Code)

Please refer to the attached letter dated August 15, 2003. This item may be discussed in closed session



LAW OFFICES  
**BURKE, WILLIAMS & SORESENSEN, LLP**  
 18301 VON KARMAN AVENUE, SUITE 1050  
 IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92612-1009  
 Tel: (949) 863-3363  
 Fax: (949) 863-3350  
 www.bwslaw.com

LOS ANGELES OFFICE  
 611 WEST SIXTH STREET, SUITE 2500  
 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-3102  
 Tel: (213) 236-0600  
 Fax: (213) 236-2700

INLAND EMPIRE OFFICE  
 3403 TENTH STREET, SUITE 300  
 RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92501-3629  
 Tel: (951) 788-0100  
 Fax: (951) 788-5785

SAN DIEGO OFFICE  
 402 WEST BROADWAY, SUITE 810  
 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-3553  
 Tel: (619) 615-6672  
 Fax: (619) 615-6673

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE  
 450 SANSOME STREET, SUITE 1200  
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111-3320  
 Tel: (415) 955-1160  
 Fax: (415) 982-0824

VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE  
 2310 EAST PONDEROSA DRIVE, SUITE 25  
 CAMARILLO, CALIFORNIA 93010-4747  
 Tel: (805) 987-3468  
 Fax: (805) 482-9834

mwadon@bwslaw.com

OUR FILE NO.  
 03476-0031

August 15, 2003

**VIA FACSIMILE (626) 979-5363**  
**& U.S. MAIL**

Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer  
 RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
 WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
 900 S. Fremont Avenue  
 Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
 P.O. Box 1460  
 Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

RECEIVED

AUG 18 2003

RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS  
 CONSERVANCY

**Re: Woodland Duck Farm Property**

Dear Ms. Faustinos:

The purpose of this letter is to continue the dialogue between the City of Industry ("City") and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy ("RMC") and the Watershed Conservation Authority ("WCA") in light of the direction from the Industry City Council and the governing boards of the WCA and RMC to explore partnership opportunities with respect to the acquisition and development of the Woodland Duck Farm property ("Site"), in particular those parcels lying within the jurisdiction of the City ("City Parcels").

The City was pleased to learn that your boards felt that the City's expressed interest in utilizing just two of the City Parcels (APN's 8115-001-001 and 8115-002-007) for a potential water quality management program ("PWQMP") can be "easily accommodated." We further understand that the RMC and WCA Boards would like (1) the RMC to have "design input" with respect to a PWQMP, and (2) that, at minimum, the WCA retain the other City Parcels not necessary for a PWQMP.

These are encouraging developments, and for the reasons set forth below, we also believe that the RMC and the WCA's objectives can be, and in fact are, accommodated in the proposal outlined in this letter.

Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer  
 RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
 WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
 August 15, 2003  
 Page 2

#### **Potential Water Quality Management Program**

As you are aware, the City has identified a small portion of the Site as a potential location for a PWQMP. This is perhaps a fancy acronym for a program that would simply attempt to capture first flush storm water from the San Jose Creek, channel that water onto the property for ground water recharge, and remove the accompanying trash and other contaminants in a manner consistent with the City's NPDES permit requirements and other applicable law. As you are also aware, the City has not undertaken any studies which would confirm the feasibility of such a program nor has it undertaken any design work. Nevertheless, in light of the encouragement the City has received from the RMC/WCA to explore the possibility of partnering on such a program, we will see what information we can find on similar existing or proposed programs in other jurisdictions so that both sides can better understand how such a potential program would fit within the RMC/WCA's plans for the Site.

#### **Water Quality Management Is A Goal Shared By The City And The RMC/WCA**

While it appears that the RMC/WCA Boards see the compatibility in a PWQMP with the RMC/WCA's mandates and goals, because some third parties did not seem to share that vision, we would like to take this opportunity to review for the benefit of all interested persons some of the applicable laws and RMC adopted or sponsored documents outlining these duties and objectives.<sup>1</sup>

#### **A. Public Resources Code § 32600 et seq.**

The very first purpose enumerated in Public Resources Code section 32602(a) is for the RMC to provide "watershed improvement within the territory" of the RMC. Furthermore, Section 32621 specifically prohibits the RMC from taking any action that "interferes or conflicts with the exercise of the powers or duties of . . . any public agency responsible for groundwater or surface water management," or any action that "results in the degradation of water quality, or interferes or conflicts with any action by . . . a public agency . . . relating to . . . storm water flows and run off."

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<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, we are not requesting that this document remain confidential.

Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer  
 RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
 WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
 August 15, 2003  
 Page 3

**B. RMC Watershed and Open Space Plan (OSP)**

Pages 36-39:

Section 2F. of the OSP contains a good discussion regarding water quality management and NPDES permit requirements, including the need for non-point source pollution controls with respect to total maximum daily loads or TMDL's for trash.

Page 72:

**“Goal:** Improve storm water runoff quality to assure protection of surface and ground water.  
**Actions:** The [RMC] will work with . . . relevant local agencies to encourage development of model programs related to urban storm water runoff mitigation and encourage . . . cities to adopt and implement these programs.”

**C. Open Space Plan, Phase II (OSP II)**

Page 14:

“Consistent with water quality standards, develop regional and subregional networks of storm water detention areas where feasible.”

Page 48:

“The working group recommends that RMC work cooperatively with . . . the City of Industry to plan for the site [Woodland Farms Property] area as a whole.”

Page 49:

“The working group recommends that RMC evaluate the following uses in its plan for the [Woodland Duck Farm] site:

- Ground Water Recharge
- Surface Water Treatment”

Page 55:

“RMC to support partnerships between entities facing mitigation requirements and cities or agencies seeking funding from multi-objective projects.”

Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer  
 RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
 WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
 August 15, 2003  
 Page 4

Page 62:

**"Recommended Actions.**

2. Pursue Partnerships with Appropriate Agency/Organizations...in connection with regulatory compliance, such as Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plans (SUSMP) and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements."

**D. San Gabriel Confluence Park (606 Study)**

Page 49:

"The Woodland Farms property is a great opportunity for a demonstration site for watershed best management practices."

**E. Use of Proposition 13 Funds (Water Code § 79000 et seq.)**

Section 79077:

**"The purposes of this article are to provide funds to assist in implementing watershed plans to reduce flooding, control erosion, improve water quality...."**

Section 79079:

"The money in the subaccount, upon appropriation by the Legislature to the board, may be used by the board for grants to municipalities, local agencies, or nonprofit organizations in accordance with this article. **The grants shall be used to develop local watershed management plans or to implement projects that are consistent with local watershed management and regional water quality control plans.**"

Section 79080:

"(c) Eligible projects under this article may do any of the following:

- (8) Otherwise reduce the discharge of pollutants to state waters from storm water or nonpoint sources."

Section 79110:

**"The purpose of this article is to provide grant funding for projects that protect the beneficial uses of water throughout the state through the control of nonpoint source pollution."**

Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer  
 RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
 WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
 August 15, 2003  
 Page 5

Section 79114:

“(b) The projects funded from the subaccount shall demonstrate a capability of sustaining water quality benefits for a period of 20 years. **Categories of nonpoint source pollution addressed by projects may include**, but are not limited to: ... **urban runoff...**”

In light of the foregoing, it is undeniable that the City's goals and RMC/WCA's goals are in fact entirely compatible, and that the parties should long ago have been working together to explore the PWQMP as a potential use for part of the Site. We encourage the RMC and WCA to remind those persons and groups who have opposed partnering with the City of these facts and to bring an end to the unproductive efforts to portray the City as some sort of environmental villain.

**Proposed Deal Terms**

After reviewing your earlier proposals, and the aforementioned concerns expressed by the RMC and WCA Boards, we would like to make the following modified proposal which we believe results in a more streamlined and less complicated deal structure that fully achieves the parties mutually stated goals. These terms would be incorporated into a binding agreement (with the proposed documents as exhibits) to be approved by the City, RMC and WCA prior to close of escrow with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) for the acquisition of the Site.

1. The WCA grants the City, at no cost, an easement over APN's 8115-001-001 and 8115-002-007 that would allow it individually, or preferably with other agencies such as the L.A. County Flood Control District, to utilize this area for a PWQMP for the removal of trash resulting from stormwater run off and potential ground water recharge (“PWQMP Easement”). The grant of easement would also include access rights to the Site to construct the project and maintain the program, if feasible and ultimately approved by the City and other participating agencies. The City and any other participating agency will indemnify, defend and hold harmless WCA from any liability arising from the PWQMP. Neither the RMC nor the WCA will be required to contribute funds towards the PWQMP, but may in their discretion elect to do so at a later date through grants or otherwise when an actual program is proposed.
2. The RMC and the WCA agree to use their best efforts to cooperate with the City to obtain similar easement rights from Edison on the immediately adjacent parcels in addition to the other easements or rights that the RMC/WCA may need with respect to other uses contemplated at the Site.

OC# 30888

Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer  
 RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
 WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
 August 15, 2003  
 Page 6

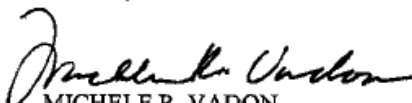
3. In exchange for the PWQMP Easement, the City will convey, at no cost, an easement for ingress and egress ("Access Easement") to the RMC/WCA over the City property adjacent to Temple Avenue which the RMC has expressed an interest in developing as part of the north access to the Site ("City Access Property").
4. The RMC and the WCA agree that the City will have first priority with respect to any mitigation land bank program that the agencies may develop with respect to the Site.
5. The RMC and the WCA will participate in the design process for any PWQMP. The City is also willing to consider that any dispute regarding the final design would be subject to binding resolution by the Flood Control District or the L.A. County Public Works Department since their cooperation is critical for any such program.
6. The City will participate as a stakeholder in all "Phase II" planning for the Site.
7. Upon completion of all required environmental review and documentation and a Phase II Site plan that incorporates the PWQMP into the design (though not as a RMC/WCA project), the WCA will submit such documents to the City in conjunction with a zone change application for the City Parcels. If the City is satisfied that all impacts of the project are mitigated and that the proposed plan does not interfere with the City's PWQMP Easement, we believe that the City Planning Commission and City Council will be able to support amendments to the City's zoning regulations that would allow all proposed uses to take place on the City Parcels. As we have previously discussed, because the City's discretionary approvals cannot be contracted away, the City proposes that the PWQMP Easement and Access Easement over the City Access Property will not be required to be recorded unless and until the City amends its zoning for the Site.

In sum, we believe that this structure is preferable to a City acquisition in that it allows the WCA to maintain ownership, control and flexibility over the Site (as requested) while adequately protecting the City's interests. Furthermore, as the RMC and the WCA have represented that all potential uses of the Site require further planning, this proposal establishes a framework for the parties to work together during this planning process to achieve their mutual goals.

Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer  
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
August 15, 2003  
Page 7

We look forward to discussing these proposals with you and your staff at the Industry City Offices on August 21, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy City Attorney Don Davis who will be working with you on these negotiations should you have any immediate questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

  
MICHELE R. VADON  
BURKE, WILLIAMS & SORENSEN, LLP

cc: Philip Iriarte, City Manager  
Donald M. Davis, Deputy City Attorney  
Terry Fujimoto, Deputy Attorney General

OC# 30888

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 18: Consideration of litigation: City of Industry, a municipal corporation vs. Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. (This item may be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9)

This item may be heard in closed session.